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CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

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Chernobyl Incident

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Today's edition of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT supplement "Chernobyl Incident" is the last of the special series that began on 7 May. Further reportage and comment on this nuclear accident will be published in the relevant regular volumes of the DAILY REPORT.

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Text of 14 May Gorbachev Television Address
PM151200 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 86
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[M.S. Gorbachev's Address on Soviet Television — *PRAVDA* headline]

[Text] Good evening, comrades. As you all know, a misfortune has befallen us — the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. It has painfully affected Soviet people and caused the anxiety of the international public. For the first time ever we encountered in reality such a sinister force as nuclear energy that has escaped control.

Considering the extraordinary and dangerous nature of what had happened in Chernobyl the Politburo took into its hands the entire organisation of work to ensure the speediest liquidation of the breakdown and the limitation of its consequences.

A government commission was formed and immediately left for the scene of the accident while at the Politburo a group was formed under Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov to solve urgent questions.

All work is being conducted actually on a round-the-clock basis. The scientific, technical and economic possibilities of the entire country have been put to use. Operating in the area of the accident are organisations of many union ministries and agencies under the leadership of ministers, prominent scientists and specialists, units of the Soviet Army and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A huge share of the work and responsibility has been taken upon themselves by the party, government and economic bodies of the Ukraine and Belorussia. The operating staff of the Chernobyl nuclear power station are working selflessly and courageously.

So what did happen?

As specialists report, the reactor's capacity suddenly increased during a scheduled shut-down of the fourth unit. The considerable emission of steam and subsequent reaction resulted in the formation of hydrogen, its explosion, destruction of the reactor and the associated radioactive release.

It is yet early to pass final judgement on the causes of the accident. All aspects of the problem — design, projecting, technical and operational — are under the close scrutiny of the government commission.

It goes without saying that when the investigation of the causes of the accident is completed, all the necessary conclusions will be drawn and measures will be taken ruling out a repetition of anything of the sort.

As I have said already, it is the first time that we encountered such an emergency when it was necessary quickly to curb the dangerous force of the atom that had escaped from under control and keep the scale of the accident to the minimum.

The seriousness of the situation was obvious. It was necessary to evaluate it urgently and competently. And as soon as we received reliable initial information it was made available to Soviet people and sent through diplomatic channels to the governments of foreign countries.

On the basis of this information practical work was launched to liquidate the accident and limit its grave aftermaths.

In the situation that had taken shape we considered it our top priority duty, a duty of special importance to ensure the safety of the population and provide effective assistance to those who had been affected by the accident.

The inhabitants of the settlement near the station were evacuated within a matter of hours and then, when it had become clear that there was a potential threat to the health of the people in the adjoining zone, they also were moved to safe areas.

All this complex work required utmost speed, organisation and precision.

Nevertheless the measures that were taken failed to protect many people. Two died at the time of the accident — Vladimir Nikolayevich Shashenok, an adjustor of automatic systems, and Valeriy Ivanovich Khodemchuk, an operator of the nuclear power plant. As of today 299 people were in hospital diagnosed as having radiation disease of varying degree of gravity. Seven of them have died. Every possible treatment is being given to the rest. The best scientific and medical specialists of the country, specialised clinics in Moscow and other cities are taking part in treating them and have at their disposal the most modern means of medicine.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government I expressed profound condolences to the families and relatives of the deceased, to the work collectives, to all who have suffered from this misfortune, who have suffered personal loss. The Soviet Government will take care of the families of those who died and who suffered.

The inhabitants of the areas that heartily welcomed the evacuees deserve the highest appreciation. They responded to the misfortune of their neighbours as though it was their own, and in the best traditions of our people displayed consideration, responsiveness and attention.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are receiving thousands upon thousands of letters and telegrams from Soviet people and also from foreign citizens expressing sympathy and support for the victims. Many Soviet families are prepared to take children to their homes for the summer and are offering material help. There are numerous requests from people to be sent to work in the area of the accident.

These manifestations of humaneness, genuine humanism, of high moral standards cannot but move every one of us.

Assistance to people, I repeat, remains our top priority task. At the same time vigorous work is under way at the station itself and the adjacent territory to limit the scale of the accident. In the

most difficult conditions it proved possible to extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading to the other power units.

The staff of the station stopped the three other reactors and switched them into a safe state. They are under constant control.

A stern test has been passed and is being passed by all — firemen, transport and building workers, medics, special chemical protection units, helicopter crews and other detachments of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In these difficult conditions much depended on a correct scientific evaluation of what was happening because without such an evaluation it would have been impossible to work out and apply effective measures of coping with the accident and its aftermaths. Our prominent scientists from the Academy of Sciences, leading specialists from the union ministries and agencies, the Ukraine and Belorussia are successfully coping with this task.

I must say that people have acted and are continuing to act heroically, selflessly.

I think we will yet have an opportunity to name these courageous people and assess their exploit worthily.

I have every reason to say that despite the entire gravity of what happened the damage turned out to be limited owing to a decisive degree to the courage and skill of our people, their loyalty to duty, the concerted manner in which everybody taking part in liquidating the aftermaths of the accident are acting.

This task, comrades, is being solved not only in the area of the nuclear power station itself but also in scientific institutes, at many enterprises of the country which are supplying everything that is necessary to those who are directly engaged in the difficult and dangerous struggle to cope with the accident.

Thanks to the effective measures taken, it is possible to say today that the worst has passed. The most serious consequences have been averted. Of course, it is too soon to regard the matter as closed. This is no time to rest content. Extensive and long work still lies ahead. The level of radiation in the station's zone and on the territory in the immediate vicinity still remains dangerous for human health. The top-priority task as of today, therefore, is operations to deal with the effects of the accident. A large-scale program for the decontamination of the territory of the electric power station and the settlement, of buildings and structures has been drawn up and is being implemented. The necessary manpower, material and technical resources have been concentrated for that purpose. In order to prevent the radioactive contamination of the water basin measures are being taken at the site of the station and on the adjacent territory.

Organizations of the meteorological service are constantly monitoring the radiation situation on the ground surface, on water, and in the atmosphere. They have at their disposal the necessary technical systems and are using specially equipped planes, helicopters and ground monitoring stations.

It is absolutely clear — all these operations will take much time and will require no small efforts. They should be carried out meticulously in a planned and organized manner. The area must be restored to the state that is absolutely safe for the health and normal life of people.

I cannot fail to mention one more aspect of that affair. I mean the reaction abroad to what happened at Chernobyl. In the world as a whole, and this should be emphasized, the misfortune that befell us and our actions in that complicated situation were treated with understanding.

We are profoundly grateful to our friends in socialist countries who have shown solidarity with the Soviet people at a difficult moment. We are grateful to the political and public figures in other states for the sincere sympathy and support.

We express our kind feelings to foreign scientists and specialists who showed readiness to come up with assistance in overcoming the cosenquences of the accident. I would like to note the participation of the American medics Robert Gale and Paul Terasaki in the treatment of the affected persons and to express gratitude to the business circles of those countries which promptly reacted to our requests for the purchase of certain types of equipment, materials and medicines.

We evaluate in a fitting manner the objective attitude to the events of the Chernobyl nuclear power station on the part of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director-General Hans Blix.

In other words, we highly appreciate the sympathy of all those who treated our trouble and our problems with a open heart.

But it is impossible to leave without attention and political assessment the way the event at Chernobyl was met by the governments, political figures and the mass media in certain NATO countries, especially the U.S.A.

They launched an unrestrained anti-Soviet campaign. It is difficult to imagine what was said and written these days — "thousands of casualties", "mass graves of the dead", "desolate Kiev", that "the entire land of the Ukraine has been poisoned", and so on and so forth.

Generally speaking, we faced a veritable mountain of lies — most dishonest and malicious lies. It is unpleasant to recall all this, but it should be done. The international public should know what we had to face. This should be done to find the answer to the question: What, in actual fact, was behind that highly immoral campaign?

Its organizers, to be sure, were not interested in either true information about the accident or the fate of the people at Chernobyl, in the Ukraine, in Belorussia, in any other place, any other country. They needed a pretext by exploiting which they would try to defame the Soviet Union, its foreign policy, to lessen the impact of Soviet proposals on the termination of nuclear tests and on the elimination of nuclear weapons, and at the same time, to dampen the growing criticism of the U.S. conduct on the international scene and of its militaristic course.

Bluntly speaking, certain Western politicians were after very definite aims — to blast the possibilities for balancing international relations, to sow new seeds of mistrust and suspicion toward the socialist countries.

All this made itself felt clearly during the meeting of the leaders of "the seven" held in Tokyo not so long ago. What did they tell the world, what dangers did they warn mankind of? Of Libya groundlessly accused of terrorism, and also of the Soviet Union which, it turns out, failed to provide them with "full" information about the accident at Chernobyl. And not a word about the most important thing — how to stop the arms race, how to rid the word of the nuclear threat. Not a word in reply to the Soviet initiatives, to our specific proposals on the termination of nuclear tests, on ridding mankind of nuclear and chemical weapons, on reducing conventional arms.

How should all this be interpreted? One involuntarily gets the impression that the leaders of the capitalist powers who gathered in Tokyo wanted to use Chernobyl as a pretext for distracting the attention of the world public from all those problems that make them uncomfortable, but are so real and important for the whole world.

The accident at the Chernobyl station and the reaction to it have become a kind of a test of political morality. Once again two different approaches, two different lines of conduct were revealed for everyone to see.

The ruling circles of the U.S.A. and their most zealous allies — I would like to mention specially the F.R.G. among them — regarded the mishap only as another possibility to put up additional obstacles holding back the development and deepening of the current East-West dialogue, progressing slowly as it is, and to justify the nuclear arms race.

What is more, an attempt has been made to prove to the world that talks, moreover, agreements, with the USSR are impossible, and thus to give a green light to the further military preparations.

Our attitude to this tragedy is absolutely different. We realise that it is another sound of the tocsin, another grim warning that the nuclear era necessitates a new political thinking and a new policy.

This has strengthened still more our conviction that the foreign policy course worked out by the 27th CPSU Congress is correct and that our proposals for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the ending of nuclear explosions, the creation of an all-embracing system of international security to meet those inexorably stringent demands which the nuclear age makes on the political leadership of all countries.

As to the "lack" of information around which a special campaign has been launched — a political campaign in both content and nature at that — the whole thing is an invention in this case. The following facts confirm that this indeed is so. Everybody remembers that it took the U.S. authorities ten days to inform their own Congress and months to inform the world community about the tragedy that took place at Three Mile Island atomic power station in 1979.

I have already said how we had acted.

All this enables one to judge who and how approaches the matter of informing one's own people and foreign countries.

But the essence of the matter is different. We hold that the accident at Chernobyl, just as the accidents at U.S., British and other atomic power stations pose to all states very serious problems, which require a responsible attitude.

Over 370 atomic reactors now function in different countries. This is reality. The future of the world economy can hardly be imagined without the development of atomic power. Altogether 40 reactors with an aggregate capacity of over 28 million kilowatts now operate in our country. As is known, mankind derives a considerable benefit from atoms for peace.

But it stands to reason that we are all obliged to act with still greater caution, to concentrate the efforts of science and technology to ensure the safe harnessing of the great and formidable powers contained in the atomic nucleus.

The indisputable lesson of Chernobyl to us is that in conditions of the further development of the scientific and technical revolution the questions of reliability and safety of equipment, the questions of discipline, order and organisation assume priority importance. The most stringent demands everywhere and in everything are needed.

Further, we deem it necessary to declare for a serious deepening of cooperation in the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). What steps could be considered in this connection?

First, creating an international regime of safe development of nuclear power on the basis of close cooperation of all nations dealing with nuclear power engineering. A system of prompt warning and supply of information in the event of accidents and faults at nuclear power stations, specifically when this is accompanied by the escape of radioactivity, should be established in the framework of this regime. Likewise it is necessary to adjust an international mechanism, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, for the speediest rendering of mutual assistance when dangerous situations emerge.

Second, for the discussion of the entire range of matters it would be justifiable to convene a highly authoritative specialised international conference in Vienna under IAEA auspices.

Third, in view of the fact that IAEA was founded back in 1957 and that its resources and staff are not in keeping with the level of the development of present-day nuclear power engineering, it would be expedient to enhance the role and possibilities of that unique international organisation. The Soviet Union is ready for this.

Fourth, it is our conviction that the United Nations organisation and its specialised institutions, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), should be involved more actively in the

effort to ensure safe development of peaceful nuclear activity.

For all this, it should not be forgotten that in our world where everything is interrelated, there exist, alongside problems of atoms for peace, also problems of atoms for war. This is the main thing now. The accident at Chernobyl showed again what an abyss will open if nuclear war befalls mankind. For inherent in the nuclear arsenals stockpiled are thousands upon thousands of disasters far more horrible than the Chernobyl one.

In conditions when the attention to nuclear matters increased, the Soviet Government, having considererd all circumstances connected with the security of its people and entire humanity, has decided to extend its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests till August 6 of this year, that is till the date on which more than 40 years ago the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, as a result of which hundreds of thousands of people perished.

We urge the United States again to consider with utmost responsibility the measure of danger looming over mankind, to heed the opinion of the world community. Let those who are at the head of the United States show by deeds their concern for the life and health of people.

I confirm my proposal to President Reagan to meet without delay in the capital of any European state that will be prepared to accept us or, say, in Hiroshima and to agree on a ban on nuclear testing.

The nuclear age forcefully demands a new approach to international relations, the pooling of efforts of states with different social systems for the sake of putting an end to the disastrous arms race and of a radical improvement of the world political climate. Broad horizons will then be cleared for fruitful cooperation of all countries and peoples, and all men on earth will gain from that.

TASS Reports Gale, Armand Hammer Press Conference

LD151221 Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS — Professor Robert Gale of the University of California, Los Angeles, who chairs the advisory committee of the International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry, spoke highly of the work done by Soviet medical experts to treat the victims of the accident at the nuclear power station in Chernobyl. The U.S. specialist is staying in the Soviet Union to help determine the levels of radiation the patients have absorbed and treat them.

By the time he had arrived, he said, a group of Soviet physicians led by Professor Vorobyev, Professor Guskova and Dr Baranov had already done much to determine the levels of radiation exposure of the 35 most seriously afflicted accident victims and give them corresponding treatment.

Gale was speaking at a news conference for Soviet and foreign correspondents here today, which was also addressed by Andrey Vorobyev, a corresponding member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR and head of the hematology department of the Central Institute of Advanced Training for Physicians, and Armand Hammer, a prominent U.S. public figure and member of the U.S. business community.

Gale said his view was that his Soviet colleagues had been exceptionally well prepared for such emergencies and that their preliminary estimation of radiation damage and the choice of therapy for the patients had been correct to the extent it had been possible in those circumstances.

He said he believed that despite the fact that the data base had been limited, the best possible patient evaluations had been made.

Gale expressed confidence that in the coming months specialists would be able to judge the results of the forecasts made and introduce certain corrections, although the original evaluations had been exceptionally correct. A total of 299 persons who had received significant doses of radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear source were now hospitalized. A group of 35 persons appeared to have received the highest radiation doses. Twenty eight of them were now alive. A total of 19 bone marrow transplants had been performed. Gale voiced the hope that a substantial number of those people would survive.

Speaking of the problems of medical treatment given to the patients, he said he had been impressed by Soviet medical expertise and conditions at the clinic. But that kind of treatment on that kind of scale, he said, could be beyond the means of any single country, which was why it was essential to mobilize additional resources and means to treat the radiation patients.

Answering questions about the motives he had been guided by when organizing assistance to the victims of the Chernobyl accident, Hammer said they had been purely humanitarian. He recalled that 65 years ago he had first come to Soviet Russia as a physician to help fight typhus and famine.

After hearing the news of the Chernobyl accident, he said, he had decided it was the case where he could give another form of aid to those affected by the unfortunate event at Chernobyl.

Vorobyev spoke in detail about the medical service monitoring the situation in the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, pointing out that all data concerning the radiation situation there and on the borders of the USSR was being daily reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"We report everything we know in this field," he said. "And everything we report can be easily checked." Answering newsmen's questions, Vorobyev said the Kiev zone was quite safe and there was no danger either to the people's lives or to their health there.

AFP: Gale Expects More Deaths

AU151223 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 15 May 86

[Excerpt] Moscow, May 15 (AFP) — Of the 35 persons who suffered heavy radiation exposure in the Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion, 28 are still alive, but some of them will die of "irrevers-

ible injuries," an American specialist said Thursday [15 May]. Dr. Robert Gale, a University of California bone marrow transplant specialist, told a press conference that 299 persons had received "substantial doses of radiation" in the April 26 accident.

He said "35 have received the highest dose of radiation. Nineteen received transplants, 28 remain alive." Two other people were killed immediately after the accident. "Other victims of irreversible injuries will die," said Dr. Gale. "We anticipate more deaths." The doctor was to meet later Thursday with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said the most critically injured in the accident had suffered tissue and bone marrow lesions. But he said it was unlikely that persons outside a 30-kilometer (18 mile) radius of the plant had received "even moderate" doses of radiation. And it was "extremely unlikely," he said, "that individuals who are at considerable distances could suffer consequences of the accident." The accident, which some experts have termed the worst in the history of civil nuclear power, demonstrated "our very limited capacities to react to the consequences of a nuclear war," Dr. Gale said.

Dr. Gale declined to estimate the possibility that the accident could increase the future incidence of cancer, saying "no evaluation is possible for the time being." "In the near future we will be able to make the necessary estimations," he said. "For the moment, we do not have the dosage data to make the calculations."

He said treatment of the Chernobyl victims had been "very complex," and had met with "serious problems and difficulties." "The large number of individuals exposed to radiation may exceed the resources of a single transplant center," he said.

Dr. Gale, who heads an international exchange of bone marrow banks, said marrow transplants had been done on a total of 19 Chernobyl victims, some of them performed by Soviet surgeons before his arrival. He said bone marrow lesions from radiation doses above the 800-900 rad level was "probably irreversible," with little probability of survival. If the dose is less than 500 rads, "even a moderately intensive" treatment is sufficient for the patient to recover, he said.

Andrey Vorobyev of the USSR Academy of Medicine said 100 rads was the radiation dose beyond which there is a health danger. Only persons in the immediate vicinity of the Chernobyl reactor at the time of the explosion received radiation exposure in excess of 100 rads, he said.

PRAVDA Cites Blix Criticism of West's Reporting

PM141559 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "If Only To Mislead"]

[Text] Vienna, 14 May — H. Blix, director general of the IAEA, has condemned the fuss made by American propaganda, with the support of a number of Western countries, in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES. At the general assembly of the International Press Institute which is taking place here, the IAEA leader stressed that Western reports, especially in the first few days after the accident, were "often misleading, especially as regards the damage and casualty figures." In this connection he expressed regret over the lack of a sense of responsibility on the part of certain Western observers, who published such panic items and often misled people. H. Blix noted that there are always some experts, or even politicians, who tend to panic in assessing a situation. The way the Western mass media covered the events in the Soviet Union could easily have caused unnecessary panic. In a tense situation, he stressed, it is necessary to maintain a correct awareness of the scale of what is happening.

The IAEA director general, citing WHO experts, noted that there are no grounds for restricting imports of foodstuffs from East European countries, including the USSR.

Loginov Briefs SFRY, PRC Envoys on Chernobyl

LD141706 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1606 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Moscow, 14 May (TASS) — Today in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there were talks with Milojko Drulovic, the ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the USSR, as well as Li Zewang, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the USSR.

In addition to information received earlier, Vadim Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, briefed them in detail about the situation at the Chernobyl AES and the measures being taken to eliminate the consequences of the accident.

Moscow TV Shows Chernobyl 'Forgery' Videotape

LD141657 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 14 May 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] Hello, comrades. In the West the unworthy hullabaloo in connection with the accident at Chernobyl AES continues. True, there has now been some sobering-up. Many experts have been forced to admit that the initially fabricated assessments of the incident were exaggerated. Western correspondents who have visited Kiev have reported their findings. From their reports it has become clear that life in the Ukrainian capital, despite the conjectures, is proceeding normally. Everywhere there are radiation checks and careful monitoring of foodstuffs and drinking water. Nevertheless, certain circles continue to spread fairy tales, exaggerating the results of the accident. This is being done to sow distrust toward the Soviet Union.

Obviously, this explains the broadcasting of another sensational bit of news from the Soviet Union. The U.S. television companies NBC and ABC, and following them the Italian state television, showed a videotape allegedly depicting the Chernobyl AES. You can see it now. [video shows very cloudy scene of industrial plant with buildings around and hills in distance, shot from inside a car] You see everything is smoky. It looks as if a fire is raging.

The tape was accompanied by an explanation that the scene had been filmed illegally from a distance of 14 km by a foreign tourist who had managed to get close to the site of the accident undetected and then secretly got the videotape out of the country.

True, when the film was shown on Italian television, some staff members said it strongly reminded them of something. Then the deceit was exposed. The television station received a phone call from someone in Trieste, which as you know is located in northern Italy, who said the plant depicted as Chernobyl AES was none other than the steelworks in Trieste. It always smokes like that, the town's people explained. Those who enjoy gloating at other people's misfortune found themselves in an unenviable position. The question remains as to whether that scandalous exposure will bring them to their senses.

USSR Journalists Visit AES for First Time 15 May

LD151013 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Kiev May 15 TASS — A TASS special correspondent reports from the Chernobyl nuclear power station:

Soviet correspondents today were allowed for the first time to visit the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Our itinerary was strictly defined: first a medical control station, where we changed our clothing and underwent a gasometric check, then a change of vehicles as we got into armored personnel carriers which reduce the danger or radioactive exposure and make travel quicker.

The first thing that struck was that every group was busy doing a specific job of its own. If it is needed to join the efforts, for example, of power experts and builders, the instructions come in advance from the headquarters of a government commission through the operations staff at the station.

Today there were some 50 workers on shift duty at the first three generating sets, excluding repairmen. Those at the control panel were recording the parameters of the reactors' operation. Though the latter are shut down, the station keeps living even in this condition.

Operators were busy at the central control board of the station. Water supply services were ensuring quality purification of water. The temperature regime was being strictly observed. Fire and radiation safety were being closely monitored. The workshop of underground fuel utilities was functioning at an even pace. The people were working calmly, answering questions, smiling. The most often spoken word the journalists heard in reply to their questions was "normalno" ("Everything is O.K.").

On the territory of the station, lorries were bringing concrete to unit 4 every few minutes. Armoured personel carriers were coming and going and several people were seen walking. The journalists were told that, according to radiological tests of the air above the nuclear power station, the radiation level dropped nearly by a ratio of four to one over the past three days.

Chernobyl Firemen, Workers Leave Kiev Hospital

LD131504 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Kiev, 13 May (TASS) — Fireman Stanislav Yuzishin discharged himself from the hospital today. During the first minutes of the accident at Chernobyl AES he arrived at the fourth power set together with his team. Along with his comrades he fought the fire boldly and helped the AES workers leave the danger zone. Yuzishin was taken with other injured people to Kiev Hospital. A whole floor and the best words were allocated to them. Leading specialists conducted their treatment. Comprehensive treatment aimed at the detoxification of the organism of people arriving with symptoms of primary radiation reaction was of help. Among those who discharged themselves from hospital were the firemen Nikolay Kurilovich, Stepan Shcherbak and Mikhail Kovalskiy, AES engineer Vladimir Lyamets, radiation supervisor [dozimetrist] Vladimir Moskin and others. Now almost half the patients who arrived at Kiev hospitals after the AES accident have already been discharged.

All the people taken out of the danger zone have undergone medical inspection. New medical establishments were deployed for this work, 230 medical brigades from other oblasts of the Ukraine were formed, 240 ambulances are on constant duty. The brigades consist of doctors, nurses and laboratory assistants.

The Lesnaya Polyana Sanatorium is ensuring rest for the reserve group of workers from Chernobyl AES. All conditions have been created for them to feel at home here. For they will have to coontinue the watch at Chernobyl AES. Although the reactors have been shut down, the necessary control has to be maintained there. And the people to whom such a responsible matter has been entrusted must be in good shape. The medical specialists of the santorium are looking for this. Along with other specialists, the medical experts have taken under their control the state of the environment and the quality of food products. A great deal of health instruction work is being carried out.

Kiev Oblast Children Begin Pioneer Camp Vacations

LD141427 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] As of today practically all schoolchildren from the rayons of Kiev Oblast, which took in the evacuees from the area of the Chernobyl AES, have begun to be sent to Pioneer camps. After them, schoolchildren from junior classes in Kiev will be sent away too. Although doctors say the children are in good health, at present conditions it is acknowledged that it is desirable to offer them an extra vacation. The journey to the camps on the Black Sea and the stay there are free.

Workers Donate Pay to Red Cross, Red Crescent

LD122305 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2100 GMT 12 May 86

[Text] Odessa: Dock machine-operators of the No 308 integrated work team, led by (Nikolay Timun), Hero of Socialist Labor and delegate to the 27th CPSU Congress, have decided to

help those who suffered in the accident at the Chernobyl AES. This is our aspiration: not to remain an observer but to come to the aid of those who have come to brief, says the fine team leader. And so at Quay No 14, where the Black Sea meter vessel *Nikolayev* lay at anchor, the port workers set to work. They displayed exemplary high organization in their labor, fulfilling their day's norm by 154 percent. The money earned by the work team has already been sent to Moscow into the current account of the Executive Committee of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR. Let us note that the collectives of many harbors in the Black Sea Shipping Company have warmly supported this initiative and decided to work an extra shift, transferring the money to the aid fund for those who suffered in the accident at the Chernobyl plant.

SELSKAYA ZHIZN on Rural Life Near Chernobyl

PM121638 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 13 May 86 pp 1, 3

[S. Luzgan report: "Together Against the Disaster. A *SELSKAYA ZHIZN* Correspondent Reports From Regions Adjacent to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant"]

[Excerpts] The vernal land of the Ukraine is arrayed in the lush green of crops and grass and the white and pink of orchards in blossom. This spring has brought certain amendments to the Usual rhythm of spring tasks and concerns, to our great chagrin. Leaving Kiev we are stopped at a check point: the car is tested for "radioactive cleanliness." And later, wherever we happened to be, a great deal reminded us of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in one way or another.

At the "40 Let Oktyabrya" Kolkhoz in Vasilkovskiy Rayon the woman on duty informed us that the chairman had gone to inspect the houses where it is proposed to accomodate those evacuated from Chernobyl. A middle-aged man comes into the office. He asks that the chairman be told that he is prepared to take any family into his home. Several other visitors make the same request.

N.P. Sobchuk, the kolkhoz chairman, soon arrived. Finding out about the visitors, he said that the kolkhoz will not have to take in any evacuees, that there is no longer any need.

Real people always treat a neighbor's misfortune as if it is their own, Nikolay Petrovich said. It is only our enemies who rejoice in what has happened. Honest people understand what is what.

The kolkhoz workers, N.P. Sobchuk said, are now struggling to make an appreciable leap forward in the 1st year of the 5-year plan.

When I entered the office of M.N. Burnashov, first secretary of the Vasilkovskiy Ukrainian Communist Party Gorkom, the latest report on the radiation situation was placed on his table.

Although our rayon, Mikhail Nikolayevich said, is close to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, background radiation has not caused and is not causing alarm. Our radiation monitoring posts "cover" the whole territory of the rayon and we are given information on the radiation condition of the soil, water, and crops twice if not three times every 24 hours. This information is regularly given out on local radio. Why is this done? So that people are aware of the situation.

And how are matters progressing in the rayon's fields and farms?

This is what has been reported by the rayon agro-industrial association. The plan relating to the sale of all types of livestock products has been overfulfilled, the sowing of spring crops has been completed, and the tending of crops is under way. The second fertilization of crops has been carried out in fields of intensively grown witner wheat.

To tend crops in good time and to a high standard, and to daily increase the output of farm products, M.N. Burnashov said, is our particular concern. But today the most important thing for us is to assist with feed the farms in those rayons of the oblast where people have been evacuated from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant zone. As arranged, we are sending our neighbors up to 20 tons of straw and up to 60 tons of silage every day.

...The village of Kopylovo. I talk with M.D. Makaro, head of the medical section. True, he still calls himself a sector therapeutist. But today he has dozens of specialists and laboratories at his disposal.

How are things going? Miroslav Dmitriyevich asks. Things are fine on the whole. We are doing what has been laid down. We are examining people arriving from the nuclear power plant zone. We are pleased that of the thousand people we have checked, only a few have aroused suspicion of illness, and we are testing them repeatedly. There is a lot to do. We are working around the clock.

From the numerous meetings and conversations, from the usual and unusual scenes I witnessed these days, no one can draw the comforting conclusion that no misfortune will break our good, heroic, human people. Misfortune is misfortune. It has also revealed the fainthearted and the feeble. When the bitterness of the unexpected losses and the passion and emotion recede, everyone who was involved in these events in one way or another will be given his due.

Someone once said: Heroism is crowned with tragedy, but tragedy gives birth to heroes. Tragedies are not needed, of course, to test us for fortitude. But if a tragedy happens... Any lesson, even a sad one, must be stored up for future use.

Any misfortune is easier to surmount and overcome together.

When this report had been dispatched to the editorial office N.I. Priymachenko, first secretary of the Polesskiy Ukrainian Communist Party Raykom, telephoned the correspondents office. He reported that the majority of those who had come to them temporarily from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant region had already started work. He also said that rural meetings, sessions of rural and settlement soviets, and meetings of primary party organizations of "hosts" and "guests" are being held in the rayon. Every vitally important problem is being discussed at them.

Komsomol Official Describes Work in Kiev
LD142100 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1315 GMT 14 May 86

[Telephone interview with Anatoliy Plevachuk, secretary of the Kiev Komsomol Obkom, with unidentified correspondent; date not given — live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Work is continuing to eliminate the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl AES. Self-discipline [sobrannost] and precise actions are things which typify the labor of courageous people. While I was preparing this broadcast I phoned the Kiev Komsomol Obkom. Anatoliy Plevachuk, the obkom secretary is on the line. What is the obkom doing at the present time?

[Plevachuk] Our obkom is working and leading a normal life. Headquarters and working groups have been set up at the Komsomol and on site to render assistance to Komsomol raykoms which are in the area which people have been evacuated to. The activity of these headquarters is constantly monitored by the obkom and by the Central Committee of the Komsomol of the Republic.

[Correspondent] Do you often go to the site?

[Plevachuk] I worked there in the first group. Four Komsomol obkom workers and myself went out to Polesskiy Rayon. What did we have to do? Well, just the general work which was being carried out in the rayon; that is receiving and deploying the evacuees and all the work connected with that. My impression of those first days and what was striking about the people was, one could say, that they are true patriots of their town. Literally the day after the evacuation they were asking when they could go to the town, when they could help there in carrying out the decontamination of industrial enterprises and of housing. Well, it was obvious that they all loved both their town and the nuclear power station very much and that they were worried about the fate of the town and of the station and were impatient to see them again.

I don't want to separate Komsomol members and young people into particular categories, but I would simply like to say that our Komsomol aktiv showed its best aspects. A fire broke out at the wrecked fourth set of the station. It was a very severe fire and it was the men of the 7th militarized fire unit who took on the first blows of the flames. Among them was Viktor Kupinok, secretary of the unit's Komsomol organization; Viktor Romashevskiy, member of the unit's Komsomol committee was also there. And despite the fact that the fire was in the radiation zone, virtually all the workers on shift during the night of 26 April helped the firemen. People went to dangerous places. Aleksandr Lyushenko, member of the Pripyat town committee of the Komsomol — an operational worker in the No 2 reactor shop — did this. And as the specialists are now noting, it was due to the selfless actions of the teams of firemen who came from the oblast and also the workers on the shift who helped that it was possible to localize the scale of the accident. It could have been far greater. And, of course, the injured who had been in the danger zone were given medical aid first. I can cite an example of real courage: It is Doctor Valentin Petrovich Blokhin. While helping others in the radiation zone he virtually did not think of himself. Valentin Petrovich gave aid and helped remove many of the injured from the danger zone. And what I would like to say is this: From the moment the accident occurred, the staff of the station carried out and are continuing to carry out its labor watch. Aleksandr Bacherov, secretary of the Komsomol committee, and his deputy Mikhail Borosyuk worked along with all the others. I wish to say that the lads were responsible for providing food for the shift on duty. They were at the station constantly.

[Correspondent] Yes, and yet Western propaganda has been continually speaking of panic.

[Plevachuk] I can tell you that this is nonsense and pure rubbish. There was no panic there. People arrived there calm and confident of the future, and the opinion expressed by the majority of the population is that everyone understands that the evacuation is a temporary affair. I have already said that what struck me was the great love for their town, the great love for the station, and their confidence in tomorrow. There was no talk there such as, for example: Where shall we go? I'm going to change my job to another town — there was virtually no such talk. All are waiting to return to their town. And despite the fact that Western voices are asserting that the waters of the Dnepr have been contaminated with radioactive dust, all of us young people, all of us representatives of all the towns and rayons, along with veterans of the Great Patriotic War, have been taking an active part in peace cruises on the Dnepr, and an antiwar meeting has taken place at the (?Bukrinskiy) bridgehead. Large functions have been taking place over the last few days. For example, in Pereyaslav-Khmelnitskiy Rayon there is our oblast rally of young peace fighters devoted to International Peace Year and the International Day of Youth Solidarity. In the village of (?Sinyalo) in Rakitnyanskiy Rayon a youth demonstration has taken place within the framework of the Keep Up the Revolutionary Pace actions. Many other examples could be cited.

The work of sections of the working rural youth is not stopping here. The spring sowing has been completed. They are summing up the results to determine the victors of the socialist competition. So the life of the Komsomol obkom is proceeding according to its work plan. We are now preparing to conduct a plenum of the Komsomol obkom.

I should also like to tell you this news. When we visit labor collectives and talk to people, we are sincerely convinced that eliminating the consequences of the accident has at present become the cause of our republic and the country as a whole. When you are in the villages, you meet medical specialists and other specialists who have come from all corners of the republic. And also, there were many calls to the obkom — especially in the first days after the accident — from Komsomol committees of fraternal republics. People are offering assistance to the population which has suffered and are expressing a desire to work on restoring the station. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their sympathy and concern for the town's inhabitants and for the fate of the Vladimir Ilyich Lenin nuclear power station at Chernobyl.

IZVESTIYA Interviews Officials, Students in Kiev

PM121513 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 May 86 Morning Edition p 3

[Special correspondent A. Illesh telephone report: "Kiev: Several Interviews on the Same Question"]

[Text] Kiev, 12 May — "What are the main concerns for you today?" — that was the question which *IZVESTIYA*'s Kiev correspondent Nikolay Baklanov and I asked people of various professions. Two prominent specialists answered us from the Headquarters for the Elimination of the Consequences of the Chernobyl AES Accident.

Academician B.A. Legasov, deputy director of the I.V. Kurchatov Atomic Energy Institute:

"The reactor has lost its criticality and is not producing radioactivity. But, as is known, radioactivity was released to outside, and today intensive operations are under way aimed first at reducing it, and ultimately at completely eliminating it. The accident, as you know, has been localized, but there is still much work to be done, and it is being done in the most unusual and, frankly, difficult conditions. Nonetheless we are coping. I wish to note that all the scientists' and specialists' requests and recommendations are being fulfilled without delay."

Yu.A. Izrael, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control:

"The country's meteorological stations are constantly, intensively monitoring the level of radioactivity. To this end the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control is using specially equipped planes and helicopters and other equipment. The data obtained are being constantly analyzed at our scientific research institutions. As has already been reported, agreement has been reached for the regular transfer of data on the background radiation from one of the stations of the Ukrainian Administration of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control to the IAEA."

For students in the Ukrainian capital, this is the tense time before the examinations. Some 8,000 foreign students are studying at Kiev's VUZes. There are 700 at the Polytechnical Institute alone. The majority of these people took the news of the misfortune calmly, and only eight of them have left the city. Mohammad Kasem from Afghanistan says:

"Our concerns are everyday ones. Lectures, writing essays... This is my impression: The West wants to extract as much advantage as possible from the misfortune for its own policy. And that policy is a dirty, dishonest one. Remember, for instance, the nuclear explosions in Nevada..."

He is backed up by his colleague, Roli Sikst from Burundi, a student at Kiev State University:

"The slander campaign does not surprise me: the usual Western propaganda tactics. Everything is in order here. And as far as I know the consequences of the accident are being successfully eliminated."

A rather unexpected interview — A. Puzach, one of the trainers of Dinamo Kiev, whose team recently won an honorable trophy, the Cupwinners Cup, says:

"The last match which we were to play in the country's championship was canceled. But the reason the match did not take place was not because the team, on returning from its victory in Lyons, found itself under the influence of radiation at home. I would not be surprised if some people in the West try to 'explain' the cancellation of the match in that way, but it was only because the Dinamo Kiev team is well represented in the national team which will soon be setting off for Mexico for the world championship. The trainers have asked nine of our leading players to join the main team. Because of this, the question of our club's possible release from its match in the domestic championship is now being discussed."

Our conversation with V. Pechorin, a fifth-grade welder, took place after his return to the Lesnyye Polyany Sanatorium from his latest shift at the AES.

"What we were doing at the power station was, in general, an ordinary job, but in an unusual situation, it is true: We were sealing up doors to eliminate draughts and stripping down the electricity circuit [elektroskhema]. There is plenty of tidying-up work [khozyaystvennyye raboty] too. What is the situation? Well, for instance, we were given the job of repairing an aperture [vosstanovit okoshko] between the third reactor and the fourth — the damaged one. We had to do the job in no more than 12 minutes — that was the time set by the radiation specialists as safe for remaining in the work zone. The shift chief, the foreman, and the other guys were a great help in speeding up the work... As a result we kept within 10 minutes. Then, it goes without saying, the doctors examined us. Everything was within the norm. Now we have a rest, then we go back. We will be given our specific mission, as usual, immediately before entering the zone..."

The Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers resolution on organizing the labor and leisure of students and the health of children in Kiev and the oblast is commented on by A. Romanenko, Ukrainian minister of health:

"This year it has been decided to end the school year at general educational schools in the Kiev Oblast rayons which have accepted evacuated schoolchildren on 15 May. The kids will then be sent to labor and leisure camps in the southern oblasts. In Kiev, the school year will also end on 15 May for the first through seventh grades. Students in those grades will be sent for their summer vacation to camps and health institutions in other oblasts of the republics. In the senior grades the dates of the summer vacation have not been changed. A large number of trains and motor vehicles are now being assigned to take the children out."

Kiev Daily Describes Initial Chernobyl 'Hell'

AU141427 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 8 May 86 p 3

[Report by V. Zhukovskiy, V. Itkin, and L. Chernenko, TASS-RATAU correspondents: "A Battle Without a Front line — Resolute Actions Performed by Staff Members of Internal Affairs Organs at the First Hours and on the First Days of the Accident at the Chernobyl AES"]

[Text] The general slipped his uniform off his shoulders. There was a golden flash of the epaulets, a sparkle of the colorful mosaic on the medal ribbon bar. The general took a last look at the uniform, which had been tailored only recently, thought for a moment, and removed the badge of the Honored Worker of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. His uniform and trousers with stripes now had to be destroyed; this was a requirement of the precautionary measures. This was how the battle field was left by the commander who, along with his combat comrades, had fought a bitter battle there.

In the biography of Gennadiy Vasilyevich Berdov, militia major general and Ukrainian deputy minister of internal affairs, there have been quite a few complicated situations. He has fought bandits and dangerous criminals... But the single combat that has now been going on for 9 days running in Chernobyl has proved to be a particular one. People have perhaps never been in contact with such a formidable enemy: invisible but powerful, and for this reason very perfidious. And responsibility in this clash was without precedent.

The war diary initiated by the general at dawn on 26 April, immediately after his arrival in the area of the Chernobyl AES, has become for Major General Berdov and his many colleagues a kind of chronicle. Behind the laconic lines of this document there is the chronicle of the feat performed by the thousands of staff members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs who were among the first to engage in battle against the accident. Firemen were alerted only two minutes after what occurred. The units commanded by Lieutenants V. Pravik and V. Kibinok immediately rushed to the fourth power block that was engulfed in flames. More than 50 firefighting teams were sent to the afflicted facility from Kiev and Kiev Oblast. The heat was unbearable, but the firemen courageously advanced into this hell. Smoke blinded the eyes, melted bitumen stuck to boots, and burning graphite hailed down on helmets. The fire could spread over to the roof of the third block. But Major L. Telyatnikov chose the right tactics to fight the fire and skillfully distributed his men. And the third block was in safety. And by 5 o'clock in the morning the fire at the AES was practically stopped. But the price paid for the first victory was considerable: 17 firemen, including Major Telyatnikov, were sent to the hospital.

The situation continued to be obscure. Radiation supervisers were in action, and specialists tried to assess what had happened in the fourth block. The militia took over the relay baton from the firemen. They blocked all roads to the AES and the settlement. After all, the AES area is very picturesque, and people like to spend time there on their days off. And it happened to be Saturday. since the recreation areas had now become dangerous, militia details, quite naturally, sealed them off.

An operational headquarters, set up by General G.V. Berdov at the Pripyat city militia station, was already in operation. Staff members of Polesskiy, Ivankovskiy, and Chernobylskiy Rayon militia stations arrived to help. The militia actually launched combat operations. Under those very unusual circumstances, militiamen on their way to the posts were additionally armed with dosimeters. Colonel V. Sporishko made more and more entries in his "war diary." Reinforcements were continuously arriving in the Chernobyl AES area. Thousands of militiamen were already engaged there.

One cannot assess the situation correctly without seeing things for oneself. That was how G.V. Berdov thought, and that is why he did not spend his time in the "headquarters," but was constantly at the "hottest" spots. Posted in the danger zone were not only sergeants and master sergeants, but also militia colonels. And under these highly complex conditions, no one left his post, and there was not one single refusal to carry out one's duty. The tasks to ensure order and to protect the danger zone, as well as to find the victims and to assist them were also accomplished by staff members of internal affairs organs. Colonel General I.D. Gladush, Ukrainian minister of internal affairs, quickly arrived at the site of the accident and took over command over all actions of the militia.

In the emergency, staff members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs also performed functions which seemed to be out of their competence.

"When the problem of evacuating the settlement rose," Gennadiy Vasilyevich said, "we gathered all divisional inspectors and told them: let us have all data on how many buildings and gates are their in your respective division. We obtained these data and determined the necessary number of motor buses, as well as worked out a plan for the evacuation. In this respect, everything must be clear and well organized. In such cases chaos is impermissible..."

Of course, the announcement about the ensuing evacuation disturbed the people. An entire delegation arrived at the executive committee headquarters. General Berdov was commissioned to meet the people and to calm them down. Gennadiy Vasilyevich went out to see the people in his general's uniform. Tall, grey-haired, and calm, he was able to find the most suitable words to use about the ensuing evacuation of the city.

"Someone tried to complain," the general recalls, "but the troublemaker was silenced by the others. Although with difficulty, people saw the real danger."

A thousand buses were already standing at the AES city. Their column moved in at exactly 1400 hours. A vehicle stopped at every gate. Many people did not think that they would have to stay away long, and left everything as it was. The militiamen checked every dwelling to be certain: all have left the settlement.

"Under those circumstances," G.V. Berdov considered, "a great deal depended on the acts of our staff members, on their calm and confident behavior. After all, the people were disturbed, excited. For this reason we had to be particularly restrained, tactful, kind, and willing to help."

And this was precisely why, in that tense and distressing situation, vigorous political and educational work was constantly conducted among staff members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Provisional party organizations and groups were set up in combined detachments, and meetings were held. All this work was spearheaded by Militia Major General A.I. Borovik, chief of the political section of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Political work was conducted in conformity with a clear plan which, under those emergency conditions, encompassed the most important issues, including enrollment in the party. Here is what Oleg Dmitriyevich Kazakov, militia captain authorized for the operation, wrote in his application: "As a Communist I would like to carry out my official and civic duty in eliminating the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES..." V.A. Kuybin, Yu. G. Vergel, and A.S. Vdovichenko, party members for many years, gave the colleague the references he needed.

During the first 3 days, nearly 20 applications of this kind were made. In accordance with the statutes, all of them were immediately examined. We have been told in Kiev Gorkom that the decisions of the party meetings held in the settlement of power engineering specialists were given a priority treatment.

The work performed under the emergency conditions at the AES has become a test for the highest marks. The number of those who creditably passed the test includes Militia Master Sergeant S. Matyukha, Major V. Kucherenko, Junior Lieutenant V. Vishnevskiy, and Sergeant First class V. Denisenko. All militiamen — from private to general — received a baptism of fire in Chernobyl, and were part and parcel of the force that blocked the way of the sudden calamity.

The evacuation flooded the roads with thousands of vehicles. But, largely to the credit of the workers of the Automobile Highway Inspection, there were no accidents and no major bottlenecks. Transport militiamen were also actually masters at Yanov Station which is located near the AES.

There were small villages whose inhabitants were taken to safety by militiamen. The events in Chernobyl turned into a severe test for the characters and true moral qualities of people. They sharply revealed cowards and new heroes. The accident at the AES will be not only a bitter technical lesson for us, but also a moral one.

The days in the area of the Chernobyl AES have become the most important days in the lives of G.V. Berdov and of his colleagues: V.V. Durdinets, first deputy minister; Yu.A. Voshkin and V.D. Pitsyura, deputy ministers; and others.

The leaders of internal affairs organs are now alternating in their trips to the Chernobyl area, whose problems and concerns keep them busy. All that has to be comprehended and appraised. Justice has to be done to those who have distinguished themselves. In his thoughts, General Berdov again and again wanders to the danger zone where his comrades are continuing the combat effort. They are at their posts, patrolling the streets of the deserted settlement, and making responsible decisions. More and more entries are being made in the militia's war diary. Junior lieutenants and ensigns are going prematurely grey. Contact with a danger whose reality is hardly believable leaves a deep imprint on human souls. In the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, reports from Chernobyl are expected like reports from the front line.

Militia's Heroic Feats at Chernobyl Described

PM121544 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 May 86 Second Edition p 5

[Report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Polyakov: "The Soviet Character. From the Region of the Chernobyl AES"]

[Text] Everyone involved in liquidating the accident at the Chernobyl AES during these bitter days for us deserves to be mentioned in the loftiest and most glowing terms. Many names have already been featured in the press and have been heard on television and radio broadcasts. As a correspondent for a military newspaper, I would like to speak of people with shoulder boards — servicemen and representatives of fire and militia subdivisions — who are worthily fulfilling their duty under extreme conditions.

"Much has been spoken about the beauty of the soul of our people," Internal Service Colonel N. Khoroshok, chief of Kiev's Fire Protection Administration, said in conversation with me. "Chernobyl and the tragedy that has been played out there have brought to light many new colors in that soul. I am unable to speak without emotion with some of my subordinates: I want to doff my cap to them. Take Sergeant Aleksandr Nemirovskiy, driver and department commander. Outwardly he's unremarkable and taciturn. But when courage of a high order was demanded, he found it at once: He resolutely drove a special fire truck to the reactor to pump out water. Was the man aware of the extent of the danger? Yes, our people are competent and erudite. But Aleksandr did not think of himself, of his own fate. The chief thing for him was to divert misfortune and danger from other people. And that was precisely how all the other firemen acted." "Everyone is now under a great strain, with business cares," said Militia Captain A. Zarubitskiy, deputy chief of Kiev city Internal Affairs Administration's Political Department, continuing, as it were, the thoughts expressed by Khoroshok. "And when the danger is over and everything has calmed down, great gratitude will have to be expressed to many, very many people. On behalf of our entire people. And once again we shall have to take stock and take, a detached view of ourselves. Soviet character makes our individuals great and unflinchingly strong. No misfortune can bend or break them." Militia Captain A. Karachenko was one of the first to arrive in Pripyat with the subdivision he commands. It took him a matter of minutes to size up the situation and ascertain the details on the spot. Then came militarily precise and unambiguous orders comprehensible to everyone. People did not simply understand the militia worker, they derived calmness, coolness, and staunchness from him. The evacuation of residents was carried out quickly and with the strictest discipline.

I learned with pride that Capt Karachenko had Army training. He did his normal military service in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and was a platoon deputy commander. He is now one of the foremost militia officers.

"Several years ago," Militia Capt Zarubitskiy recalled, "the press carried reports on an incident connected with a temporary electricity outage in New York. There was an immediate outbreak of robberies and a sharp increase in the number of attacks on residents. I even feel awkward comparing that picture with what has happened at Pripyat. They are things that cannot be compared. The misfortune has brought Soviet people still closer together. They were and are a single family, in which everyone seeks to take upon himself the heaviest possible burden and to be wherever reliable, strong-willed people are most needed. During these days and nights we have encountered only man with a capital 'M'."

I have repeatedly had occasion to talk also with helicopter pilots. Before writing these lines, I met with Major General of Aviation N. Antoshkin, first deputy commander of the district's air forces. Nikolay Timofeyevich was in the power workers' settlement on the first day of the accident. He has been both over the reactor and around it.

I peered particularly closely and inquiringly into my interlocutor's face: How did he feel at heart? The general smiled in reply: "Of course, none of us has the right to belittle the danger or the scale of the misfortune. That would be an unforgivable mistake. But neither can we lose our head in the complex situation. My conclusion, my personal conclusion is this: Our people met this absolutely sudden and quite unforeseen occurrence fully armed. I am sure they could not have acted any better. People are showing themselves to be heroes. Lieutenant Colonel Yakovlev, for example, made more than 30 flights in one day and dropped loads weighing tens of metric tons onto the reactor. I will not be sparing of the loftiest epithets for Lieutenant Telegin and Senior Ensign Vyshkovskiy." My interlocutors repeatedly emphasized that their allies in a difficult situation are sensitive and accurate instruments which make it possible to constantly determine the real degree of danger. Even those people resolving tasks at the very epicen[illegible]f events, which is the most dangerous spot, are not receiving radiation doses that would threaten their life. There is no need for such a risk.

"Everyone can determine at any moment with the help of an individual dosimeter what dose of radiation he has received," said Major General of Aviation V. Kobyakov, member of the Military Council and chief of the district Air Force Political Department. "And yet even we senior comrades sometimes need to have recourse to monitoring. Certain pilots are very reluctant to report the dose received and are afraid that it will be recognized as high and that they will be taken off flights and removed from the region. We have to explain: You will be replaced at once by another crew, a fresh one — don't worry..." We fell silent in meditation. After a pause Kobyakov summed up what had been said: "With such people no misfortune is terrible. They are ready for anything for the sake of the common cause."

Travelers From Kiev Say Food Shortages Worsening

AU111948 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 11 May 86

[Excerpt] Moscow, May 11 (AFP) — Travelers to Moscow from the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, 130 km (80 miles) south of the Chernobyl plant, said food shortages in the region were worsening under embargoes on livestock, dairy products and produce exposed to radiation from the April 26 accident. Long lines were reported outside food shops, which were offering only canned and frozen foods.

Draconian health measures were in force, and residents were being cautioned to go outdoors only when essential to avoid exposure to radioactive fallout, travellers here said. One mother who arrived here from the Ukraine on Friday to leave her three children with her sister said, "In the block of flats where we live, we take turns shopping, because we have to look after the children and reassure the old folks."

However, the Soviet Government newspaper, *IZVESTIYA*, said "economic activity in Kiev is normal." The paper quoted a specialist as saying the city's radiation levels were "above normal, but pose no danger for the population...and could return to normal around May 19."

West's Arms Posturing 'Main Lesson' of Chernobyl

LD131511 Moscow TASS in English 1440 GMT 13 May 86

[By TASS political news analyst Aleksey Grigoryev]

[Text] Moscow, May 13 TASS — Influential quarters in the West have visually demonstrated over the past few days that they are prepared to exploit even such an unfortunate event as the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station to further their selfish ends.

Circulating bizarre allegations about "mountains of corpses around Chernobyl", they have sought to whip up anti-Soviet hysteria and the fear of a "nuclear threat from the East".

Some people in the West have proved capable, as British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe admitted in a BBC interview, of turning a human tragedy into political football.

There is also another conclusion to be drawn from the Chernobyl misfortune. Writing to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou said the accident at the nuclear power station at Chernobyl had underlined most graphically the dangers of a nuclear catastrophe threatening mankind. Such a catastrophe, he added, could mostly be a consequence of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Greek leader urged the U.N. secretary general to take all necessary measures to bring about a moratorium on all nuclear testing and thus freeze the nuclear arms race. Andreas Papandreou also proposed constant and automatic exchanges of more important information on any events at nuclear power stations.

But the main and overriding need, he said, was world nuclear disarmament. All the responsible political leaders of mighty powers, he added, should ponder a nuclear catastrophe's consequences to the world as a whole and to everyone.

This appeal, which the Greek prime minister as well as the leaders of Argentina, Mexico, India, Tanzania and Sweden have addressed to the great powers more than once, has found in our

country not only complete understanding but also a practical response. It is responding to such an appeal by the leaders of the six nations to suspend nuclear tests until the next Soviet-U.S. summit meeting that the USSR has displayed goodwill once again, by declaring readiness to refrain from nuclear blasts also after March 31 — until the first nuclear explosion in the United States. The U.S. response to the humane Soviet position has been further nuclear tests in Nevada.

The propaganda outcry in the West is gradually dying out. More and more people are coming to realize that an accident like the one at Chernobyl could have happened anywhere else. "Chernobyl reminds us again that the power we are playing with is bigger than we are," Bruce McLeod, minister of the Toronto Metropolitan United Church, wrote in *THE TORONTO STAR*.

"No one can say for sure what won't happen. Nuclear accidents are not times for blaming or gloating, or for nourishing national self-righteousness. We are a single fragile human family. We still have some time left to learn to live together," he said.

The accident makes one think of what has not yet led to catastrophe but is a cause of great concern all over the world, namely the negative reaction of the United States and its allies to Soviet proposals for putting an end to all nuclear testing and eliminating all nuclear weapons even before the end of the century.

This posturing by the West is by far more dangerous than the unfortunate event at our nuclear power station. This is the main lesson of Chernobyl.

W. Europe Said Victim of Own Propaganda on Radiation

LD131957 Moscow TASS in English 1841 GMT 13 May 86

["Propaganda Boomerangs — Losses"; "By TASS Political News Analyst Aleksey Grigoryev" — TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS — Less than a week separated statements on the radio by two West German ministers.

First the West Germans were addressed by Friedrich Zimmermann. The Federal interior minister declared: "The serious accident at the Soviet nuclear power station has plunged us all into confusion", but he added right away: "For us there has not existed and does not exist any danger...the World Health Organization does not see any danger to people outside the affected area in the USSR either."

Contrary to any logic, however, Zimmermann's ministry immediately after began provoking panic among the West German population, urging them to seal their windows and wash vegetables and fruits, as if these had previously been eaten dirty.

The U.S. television network CBS admitted that the avalanche of often conflicting pieces of advice had stirred up fear. The official thesis throughout Europe, it said, was that there was no danger but if that was so, many people were wondering, why so many pieces of advice on safety precautions.

The results of the fear-fostering campaign were quick to tell. The anti-Soviet hysteria fanned up in the West by official propaganda services and the mass media made people buy less farm produce and so made farmers suffer losses.

This was why another West German cabinet member, Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, went on the air to speak to the nation. He reported that tomorrow, May 14, the agriculture ministers of the country's federal lands will hold a conference in Bonn to discuss the issue of compensating the West German farmers for their losses. Bangemann said also that the government will consider the possibility of demanding that the USSR pay damages.

In the opinion of a whole number of officials in the Federal Republic of Germany, such a demand is groundless from the standpoint of international law. What happened was clearly a boomerang effect: It is anti-Soviet allegations about the "radioactive contamination of Western Europe" that caused losses to farmers in West Germany and other Western countries. Regardless of all this, influential circles in the West are obviously itching to launch yet another propaganda campaign against the USSR, only this time they are aiming to gain not political capital but capital proper.

The issue of a possible suit to be filed against the Soviet Union was raised also in the U.S. mass media, although there are no grounds, including international legal grounds, for it also there. [sentence as received]

It is relevant to recall that the increased radiation levels in Western Europe as a result of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station were considerably lower than the standards set by the IAEA and determining when and what precautions are to be taken.

If the West German authorities took such precautions even if they were unnecessary, it is they that should bear responsibility for this. The opinion of most prominent experts on radiation safety did not give any causes for rash and panicky reports on the "contamination of farm produce" either.

At their meeting in the WHO headquarters it was stressed that as of May 6, radioactive substances over the European Continent had dispersed and most of the short-life elements of the radioactive substances had disintegrated.

The experts said that the coverage given in the Western mass media to the accident had caused an undesirable reaction among the population, which did not correspond to the actual extent of the danger. Since those scientists said there were no reasons to recommend restrictions on the import of food produce from East European countries, including the USSR, it was all the more unjustified for the West German authorities to make the people in their country scared over the "harmfulness" of the products of their own agriculture.

So the ones that have to pay now are those who have frightened themselves through their own efforts.

Zholkver: U.S. 'Crisis of Trust' Countered by SALT II
LD131836 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Commentary by political observer Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] In June 1979 I had occasion to witness the signing of an important agreement at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Vienna which is called for short SALT II. It is true that even then, certain of my U.S. colleagues who had gathered for the festive ceremony in the Vienna Hofburg Palace warned: SALT II will hardly be ratified by the United States since the military industrial complex sees it as a threat to its business.

These predictions have been fulfilled. The treaty has not even been presented to the Senate for approval. However, because of the popularity of the idea of disarmament throughout the world, including among the American public, Washington did not risk simply renouncing the Vienna accords and announced that the treaty, although unratified, would be observed by the United States. It is true that all this time SALT II has been a thorn in the flesh of American military industrialists, and they have been striving in all possible ways to get rid of it. Sometimes they expatiated on the treaty's imperfection and sometimes they accused the Soviet Union of violating it.

Meanwhile, the very idea of arms limitation was being undermined. And now that Washington has openly begun to implement a strategy of neoglobalism — from the bombings of Libyan cities to the stepped-up production of nuclear and space weapons — the present U.S. Administration evidently considers it possible to finally discard the SALT-II treaty too. In any case, as *TIME* magazine has reported, it was decided at a secret conference of the U.S. National Security Council to violate that treaty, in particular concerning number of cruise missiles. Appropriate plans, as *TIME* also points out, were expounded to the participants of the recent Tokyo conference of the Big Seven.

It is true that, as is noted for example in the West German press, these plans gave rise to no small degree of concern even among the closest U.S. allies. FRG Chancellor Kohl is even alleged to have sent a special message to President Reagan calling upon him not to violate SALT II. Of course, it is difficult to contemplate that Washington will in this case — as in all other ones — listen to the opinion of its partners. However, for the sake of fairness it is worthwhile asking the question: In connection with the Chernobyl accident, Washington has expatiated a great deal about the crisis of trust in international relations. But what trust is there at all when the Washington administration both practically, and now evidently also formally, breaks off a very important treaty under which stands the signature of the President of the United States?

Ponomarev: West Exploits Accident To Provoke Enmity
LD131651 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 13 May 86

[By TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev]

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS — The governments of several Common Market countries are trying to take advantage of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station for the unseemly end of kindling enmity to socialist countries in Europe.

This is demonstrated by yesterday's decision by a session of the EEC Ministerial Council at foreign minister level to suspend the import of meat, dairy products and vegetables from the European socialist countries on account of their alleged radioactive contamination.

The attending ministers were clearly guided not by objective data now available to any government but by purely time-serving political and economic considerations and a reluctance to extend cooperation, strengthen trust and promote goodneighbourly relations in Europe.

Commenting on the EEC decision, the American and West European press called attention to the fact that the EEC "experts" had not had the objective scientific facts to work out acceptable universal standards for radioactive contamination levels. The EEC's actions are nothing other than sanctions, this time under the pretext of "safety".

The Polish Foreign Trade Ministry described the Common Market ruling to stop food imports from Poland as discriminatory.

The Hungarian newspaper *MAGYAR HIRLAP* said the decision is totally unjustified and is hardly explained by concern for public health.

The Yugoslav newspaper *BORBA* stressed the groundless nature of the EEC's actions which are not supported by any compelling arguments. Similar views were expressed by the press in other socialist countries.

The EEC leadership's actions, prompted from Washington, show very clearly a desire to draw public attention from the issues uppermost on the minds of people in Western Europe and elsewhere, namely the problems of delivering mankind from nuclear and chemical weapons and preventing the militarization of outer space.

The Soviet Union's proposals on these issues, taking into account the interests of all sides, have long been before the leaders of the United States, Britain and other NATO countries.

It is high time there was a practical response to these proposals but cold winds keep blowing from the West as before. There, they are looking for any pretext to dodge taking concrete measures and signing accords with the USSR on arms control.

NATO figures have tried to exploit even such an unfortunate event as the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station to poison international atmosphere and provoke strife and mistrust.

Socialist countries have been subjected to all manner of boycotts, blockades, economic blackmail and pressure more than once before but each time those disciminatory measures have failed. The same lot is awaiting also the EEC's cabbage and onion embargo.

Columnist Excoriates Senator Dole's 'Mud-Slinging'

PM151029 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 May 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Melo Sturua article under the rubric "Notes Apropos": "Robert Dole's Anti-Soviet Aria"]

[Text] When, on the eve of the 1976 elections, President Ford made Robert Dole, senator from Kansas, his running mate, the uninitiated were rather surprised. But the connoisseurs of political intrigues understood very well the significance of this decision. Ford needed Dole, the magazine *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* wrote at the time, to "sling mud" at his rival Carter. Republican strategists were hoping that the "foul-mouthed Dole" would be able to "bring Carter out of his equilibrium and annoy him," provoking the rival to make mistakes. This strategy proved unjustified. The team of Ford and Dole lost the election.

It is no accident that I am recalling this old story. Robert Dole, who now heads the Republican majority in the Senate, is still considered leader in the sphere of "slinging mud" at his political rivals. And when it comes to the socialist countries, in particular the Soviet Union, Dole's eloquence begins to resemble a mud Niagara.

The other day the Kansas senator unleashed his latest Niagara against us, in connection with the accident at the Chernobyl AES. The anti-Soviet radioactivity of his speech was unusually high even for this grand master of political bad language. Dole expatiated on the Soviet Union's "irresponsibility and cynicism" and its allegedly "unprecedented disregard for the fears and apprehensions of millions of inhabitants of the planet," saying that "the Russians have the potential to cause tremendous, potentially lethal problems for us all" and that they are "ignoring Chernobyl, but we cannot ignore it," and so forth, all in the same vein.

Frankly speaking, there is a great temptation here to fall into a rage. After all, according to Dole it appears that we all but deliberately provoked the accident at the Chernobyl AES, apparently in order to intimidate, if not actually destroy, all mankind. But despite the extreme irresponsibility and cynicism of such expatiations by the American senator, let us not lose our equilibrium, let us take a look at the sources of his "eloquence." And Dole himself leads us to those sources, warning in highly significant terms that "the Russians cannot be blindly trusted." (Blind hatred is another matter.)

Imperialist circles seized on the accident at the Chernobyl AES as an "argument" against the attainment of realistic accords with the Soviet Union on curbing the arms race and eliminating the threat of nuclear missile war. To this end they distort not only the actual facts about Chernobyl, but also the lessons of Chernobyl, which have shown once again how fragile our planet is and how destructive is the might of the atom, especially if it is chained not to peaceful concrete, but to military armor. It is not we who cause "potentially lethal problems" for mankind, but the U.S. ruling circles, to which Robert Dole has the dubious honor of belonging. It is they who refuse to stop the nuclear tests, they who continue to create ever more powerful instruments of mass destruction, they who try to take atomic death into space, they, finally, who sow the seeds of distrust in order to reap the poisonous fruits of international tension. The latest example of this is the anti-Soviet song and dance around the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

Into what muddy depths you have to plunge in order to accuse us of "ignoring Chernobyl"! We must admit that Robert Dole has succeeded, with the help of ignoring common sense, and, most important, the true needs and aspirations of mankind. But will he succeed in extricating himself from these depths? That is another matter. Malevolence once failed to bring him the position of vice president. Nor will it yield the expected dividends for him now. In trying to bring us out of our equilibrium he is losing his own. In trying to vent his spite on us, he is removing his own mask.

Chernobyl 'Pretext' for Banning Farm Imports

PM121626 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 86
First Edition p 5

[V. Bolshakov "Rejoinder" under the general heading "Who Needs the Anti-Soviet Campaign in Connection With the Accident at the Chernobyl AES": "Warming Their Hands..."]

[Text] There is one infallible indicator of moral health — the desire to help someone who has gotten into trouble and not to profit from another's misfortune. Alas, this indicator is absent where the practice of pursuing profit is considered "ethical" and quite "moral." What connection could there be, you might think, between the "trade war" raging on both shores of the Atlantic and also within West Europe itself and the accident at the Chernobyl AES? It turns out there is a connection, albeit an artificially created one.

The United States, which long ago threatened to take "punitive measures" against West European suppliers of agricultural products to the United States, is forcing legislation through Congress "banning" imports of foodstuffs from the Old World on the pretext of the supposedly "sharply increased radiation there." Even though WHO experts publicly announced a few days ago that there are no reasons for such a ban, nor for continuing the precautionary measures originally introduced, fears continue to be stoked intensively.

According to the French TF-1 television channel, the accident at the Chernobyl AES was "a convenient pretext for certain politicians to establish an embargo on agricultural products whose importation was scheduled under agreements." It cites as an example Italy's refusal to accept certain French products. Italy in turn complains that its EEC partner-rivals are not buying its milk, even though it has been proved that its is safe...

The fabrications disseminated in the Western press have done direct harm to exports of foodstuffs from Finland and other countries. But the strategists of "psychological warfare" have directed their primary blow against the USSR and the other European socialist countries. Despite convincing proof submitted by these countries' national organizations and by international organs, and despite the painstaking measures to monitor the level of radiation and the quality of the goods, the EEC countries and also certain states which are not members of this grouping have

announced a ban on imports of a number of kinds of agricultural products from East European countries.

L'HUMANITE DIMANCHE regards this measure as "overtly discriminatory and dictated by purely political considerations." The Polish PAP agency adds: "This is not the first instance when wrenches have been thrown in the works of the socialist countries and of East-West economic cooperation on farfetched pretexts." The Hungarian press points out that the EEC decision is scarcely motivated by health considerations but, rather, is designed to protect the "Common Market" countries' food market, which is burdened by tension.

In this situation the actions of certain "fighters against radioactive products" rather resemble attempts to profit from other people's misfortune and, at the same time, to trip up competitors. It was for this that the current massive "irradiation" with anticommunism was needed.

Shlenov on EEC Commission's Ban on Foodstuffs
LD131048 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal
2100 GMT 12 May 86

[Viktor Shlenov commentary]

[Text] The EEC commission has imposed a ban, to last until the end of the month, on imports of foodstuffs from the European socialist countries. Radio Moscow commentator Viktor Shlenov writes:

The EEC has joined the anti-Soviet campaign unleashed in the West in connection with the fault at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. It has done so despite the fact that each day the inconsistency is becoming increasingly obvious concerning the rumors spread about radioactive contamination in the countries bordering the USSR and despite the fact that it has been officially declared that Soviet products pose no radioactive threat to the population of the USSR nor to citizens of other countries.

Other socialist countries are also monitoring the levels of radioactivity and are forwarding detailed reports to the International Atomic Energy Agency. It should be pointed out that consumption of the foodstuffs included in the EEC's banned list is not absolutely restricted [nao esta absolutamente limitados] in the exporting countries. The impression emerges that the EEC Commission's discriminatory measures have in no way been dictated by concern for the health of the people of Western Europe but rather by political considerations. And the question arises: Why has the EEC ban not been extended, for example, to Sweden, Denmark, and Austria where radioactivity levels have not been lower than those registered in the socialist countries?

The possibility cannot be ruled out that the EEC Commission acted on the suggestion of the farming and commercial monopolies seeking to supplant the socialist countries in the Western markets. In the capitalist world, all means of fighting the competition are acceptable, sometimes even base and unworthy means. It is also hard not to think that Brussels was waiting for a pretext to deal a blow to East-West economic cooperation. From the standpoint of the enemies of such cooperation, this is an opportune moment, for possibilities had recently emerged for the establishment of mutually beneficial trade relations between the EEC and CEMA.

Obviously such actions damage the international agreements concluded between the EEC members and the socialist countries on cooperation in the trade, economic, industrial, technical, and scientific spheres. It is also obvious that the EEC's discriminatory actions undermine the political confidence that is so necessary for the success of the talks under way in Geneva, Vienna, and Stockholm. Such actions also serve to show that while on the one hand the Europeans are coming out with increasing resolve against the nuclear threat hanging over the world, on the other hand certain politicians are doing their utmost to divide Europe and sow fresh seeds of mistrust and enmity.

'U.S. Nuclear Plants Safer' Claims Discounted
LD121639 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1445 GMT 12 May 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fesunenko]

[Text] Hello comrades. Whipping up an anti-Soviet campaign in connection with the accident at Chernobyl, a number of official representatives of the U.S. Administration have made gloating statements saying tht the safety techniques in Soviet nuclear power engineering are allegedly useless, and that U.S. nuclear reactors are much safer than Soviet reactors.

(Marvin Resnikoff), the well-known U.S. nuclear scientist, writing in the *PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER* refutes these conjectures. He claims that, on the contrary, I quote him: In some respects, U.S. reactors are more dangerous than Soviet ones. For instance, to generate the same quantity of electricity, U.S. reactors use much more radioactive substances than Soviet ones. In particular, the reactor of the U.S. (Limerick) nuclear power station, located near Philadelphia has, in the words of the U.S. scientist, 10 times more radioactivity than Soviet reactors, and in the event of any incident it would pose a serious threat to the populace of that city.

(Marvin Resnikoff) considers that the attempts of the leaders of the U.S. nuclear industry to give the public of their country a false sense of security can be qualified as criminal. This disinformation hampers the drawing-up of appropriate emergency plans to be usedin the event of an accident threatening people's lives.

And in the view of *TIME* magazine an important lesson learned from the accident at Chernobyl is the fact that the authorities must always be ready and able to evacuate people living in the vicinity of a nuclear power station, and to isolate them from the effects of radiation. In this connection, the U.S. observers draw attention to the fact that the Soviet authorities were able to carry out an organized and very rapid evacuation of 49,000 people from four population centers near Chernobyl AES. It is difficult to imagine how the populations living near the U.S. nuclear power stations of Indian Point, (Zion) and (Limerick) located near such major population centers as New York, Chicago and

Philadelphia could be quickly evacuated, *TIME* magazine writes.

Radio Criticizes Western Propaganda on Chernobyl

LD121816 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 12 May 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Boris Andriyanov]

[Text] The events of the past few days convincingly show that resolute and effective measures are being taken in our country in order to restrict and eliminate in the shortest possible time the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. However, these measures have absolutely no interest to certain circles in the West. Confirmation of this is the fact that these circles are continuing to inflate the provocative ballyhoo, sowing panic among the population.

In this way, says the French Communist newspaper *L'HUMANITE*, in the West they are trying to gather as many political dividends as possible from what happened at Chernobyl, while the eminent Australian writer and journalist, editor of the magazine *SURVEY*, William Brown, called the West's reaction to the events in Chernobyl the fiercest flare-up of anti-Sovietism in recent years.

Washington is especially eager in this respect, having forgotten the most elementary decency. In the White House, for example, they have gone so far as to accuse the Soviet Union of uncivilized behavior. Let us leave such an incorrect — to put it mildly — statement to the conscience of its authors. Let us just note that it, like the entire inflated campaign of fear and hatred, was needed by some one across the ocean in order to distract world public attention from their own acts, which are a danger to peace, and which, according to generally accepted humane concepts, can in no way be described as civilized.

Suffice it merely to recall just a few terms which are currently especially in vogue among leading American figures. After all, they keep on about the nuclear stick, about the space stick, and other such sticks, clearly taken from the lexicon of some sort of troglodyte dictionary for contemporary neanderthals. And what is the worth of their arguments which are conducted with uncon-cealable lust for — having deployed their "star wars" system — the U.S. gaining the opportunity to deal an industrially developed country such damage as would set it back at least to the level of the 18th century? Surely such arguments are unworthy of a civilized peronality?

An unambiguous answer to this is given by every honest person on earth. And this answer reflects the miscalculation of the Washington organizers of the propaganda ballyhoo around the accident at Chernobyl. While shouting about this misfortune, which is incomparable in scale with the threat which Washington's nuclear space schemes represent, the U.S. Administration has merely emphasized what a lethal danger for mankind is contained in the plans of the transatlantic neoglobalists.

Literary Paper Cited on U.S. 'Hysterical' Press

LD132126 Moscow TASS in English 2044 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Moscow May 13 TASS — The Soviet press reports on the accident at the nuclear power plant near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, "contained no hint of a speculation around other people's misfortune. Deplorably, this cannot be said about the American press, which raised an anti-Soviet propaganda wave around the Chernobyl accident," *LITERATURNAYA GAZETA* points out in its issue of May 14.

The banner headlines in New York newspapers sound hysterical. "The Atomic Nightmare in Chernobyl," "A Death Power Plant", "The Lesson of Chernobyl Is That the Russians Should Not Be Trusted in Anything". The newspaper *NEW YORK POST* carried a colourful story of an anti-Soviet demonstration in New York where a crowd of dregs chanted: "Russians, go to hell".

The whipping up of mass anti-Sovietism is designed above all for the local man in the street, who is frightened with consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The U.S. press put the death toll as a result of the accident first at 60, then at 2,000 and later even at 15,000. Yet it was soon found out that the first faked report had been cooked up by a professional misinformer in Tel Aviv, the second — a liar named Kofman in the Netherlands, and the third was cooked up by an epigonus of Bandera men, who settled in New Jersey, USA. In conclusion it was found out that the clouds carried out by winds from the Ukraine and by which the Americans were particularly frightened, reached the United States but did not carry along any dangerous radiation.

Two groups of American tourists arrived from Kiev at Kennedy Airport in New York on May 2 and 3. They were met by sobbing relatives, a crowd of reporters and a special team of radiation experts. After a medical check on all tourists, Charles Maynhold, who was in charge of the check, said: "All of them are absolutely healthy." The relatives began to smile, and the tourists laughed. One of them, Alice Ehrensohn, exclaimed: "Everything in Kiev was normal, everything was superb". The next day *THE NEW YORK TIMES* again published under a panicky headline "Nuclear Disaster" five pages of absurd gossip stories, *LITERATURNAYA GAZETA* says in conclusion.

'Anti-Soviet Hue and Cry' Continues Over Chernobyl

LD141503 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpts] What is the situation in the Chernobyl nuclear power station area? What is being done to eliminate the consequences of the accident? Are there any health hazards? These and other questions are asked by many people around the world. The Soviet Union has been giving extensive and detailed coverage to the accident. Summing up the opinions of experts on the situation leads to the conclusion that the main danger has passed, although many problems still exist.

Soviet papers and television have reports on the work to decontaminate the terrain and stop the radiation leak from the damaged reactor. Tens of thousands of square meters of the nuclear

station area have been covered with a special film. Military helicopters have been dropping bags of sand and other materials on the reactor. Preparations are under way to encase the reactor in a solid concrete shell. There have been reports on radiation levels in various regions.

There has been extensive information on the situation in the Chernobyl nuclear power station area. There have been unambiguous statements by authoritative experts. And still a number of mass media in the West have continued the anti-Soviet hue and cry over the Chernobyl accident. The technique used by them is simply outrageous. For instance Italian television played a video recording of what it claimed to be a fire at the Soviet power station. It turned out later that the facility shown in the program was a cement mill in Trieste. It was Italian televiewers that caught the slanderers redhanded. The directors of the television have had to confess to the fraud. Incidentally, the same fraud was broadcast by two major American television networks, NBC and ABC.

This campaign has met with worldwide condemnation. And now one more report on the same subject: Washington has announced with much pomp and hypocritical sympathy that it is going to send dried milk to Poland, allegedly affected as a result of the Chernobyl accident. A Polish Government spokesman, Jerzy Urban, has told a news conference that the Poles do not need the milk offered by the American Senate because he said that milk is (?contaminated) [words indistinct]. However, if the United States (?does) send us milk, Jerzy Urban pointed out, Poland is ready to reciprocate by providing blankets and sleeping bags for the thousands of homeless New Yorkers.

'New Generation' Meeting Test of Accident 'Trial'

LD091615 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1509 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The scarlet flag, the unchanging companion of our festivals, like everywhere else in the country of the Soviets on 9 May, Victory Day, has also appeared on the Chernobyl AES. It was raised by those who are on watch today which can be called, quite justifiably, a militant watch.

It is difficult now: Titanic work is under way, exhausting work, without the right to a rest, to a break. But these people who have gone though fire and ashes, who, with their courage are making progress every minute, are already victors.

Those with whom correspondents came into contact in Chernobyl, who were leaving to go on watch or were returning from it, were, for the most part, young people. There was no war in their biographies: War passed through the life and the hearts of their fathers and mothers, turning their hair to silver, leaving them with wounds, wastes and losses. But then there arose a trial for the new generation such as never existed in the day of the veterans. And in this unprecedented battle, not one of these young people faltered, gave way, gave up.

They are different years, the forties and the eighties, but the individual is the same, the Soviet individual.

ALBANIA

Radiation Levels Near Normal, Restrictions Lifted

AU151025 Tirana ATA in English 0915 GMT 15 May 86

["Announcement of the Commission on Environment Protection of the PSR of Albania" — ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, May 15 (ATA) — The continuous examination of the radioactive pollution of the environment, made by the Institute of Nuclear Physics during the whole period after the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union, shows that now the level of radioactivity has fallen and has approached considerably the basic natural level.

Under such conditions, the prophylactic measures recommended through the press on May 3, 1986 are abolished. Hence, it is not dangerous for the children and the adults to stay in the open air, the drinking of water in open resources, the use of vegetables, fruits and medicinal herbs, after they are cleaned as usually. All the fresh foodstuff products such as milk, which is sold to the people, fish, oysters, frogs, etc. should continue to be used normally. Likewise, no restriction are imposed on taking bath in the seas, lakes, etc.

BULGARIA

Sofia Paper: Radiation Level 'Back to Normal'

AU141107 Sofia BTA in English 1029 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Sofia, May 14 (BTA) — As of 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, the atmospheric air in this country is practically free of radioactivity and the background gamma radiation is already within its normal values. Potable water throughout Bulgaria is good for drinking. Cow's milk and meat are also safe. There are still some problems with leafy vegetables and fodder which have been exposed to rain.

These facts have been announced in today's *RABOTNICHESKO DELO* by representatives of the Research Institute of Roentgenology and Radiobiology with Bulgaria's Medical Academy. The data is reliable, because, as the scientists stressed, Bulgaria's regular participation in the I.A.E.A. programmes for analyses quality control is a guarantee that the results obtained reflect the real levels.

The feature explains that indications of the presence of certain short-lived products of nuclear fission in this country were first detected in the rain water at 15:30 hours (local time), on May 2. Since then atmospheric air, water supplies and food throughout the country have been constantly monitored. All food products for export are also closely checked.

The representiatives of the research institute emphasise that the slightly increased background radiation levels do not pose a threat to the population, including children and women in childbearing age. This categorical conclusion is based on the readings which show that despite the increased radiation levels for several days, the year's exposure will still remain far below the maximum permissible dose of annual radiation determined by the I.A.E.A.

The experts also stress that the analyses show so far that the contamination is mainly confined to the surface, which gives them reason to believe the crops will not be affected.

The article dwells also on the monitoring of the environment around the nuclear power plant in Kozloduy. The surroundings there have been constantly monitored ever since the first reactor was put into operation. It is stressed that if anything at all is being detected there, it is far below the sensitivity of the up-to-date equipment and it remains within the normal fluctuations of background radiation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Radioactivity Levels in Air Found Dropping

AU131345 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 6 May 86 p 1

[Text] Prague (CTK) — The authoritative Czechoslovak agencies monitoring the occurrence of radioactive substances in the CSSR's environment announce that, according to the latest knowledge, the content of these substances in the air has dropped. Experts are devoting constant attention to ensuring that foodstuffs and drinking water are perfect.

HUNGARY

Budapest Paper Questions EEC Sanctions on Fallout

LD140819 Budapest MTI in English 0722 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Budapest, May 14 (MTI) — Wednesday *NEPSZABADSAG* carries a commentary by its correspondent Sandor Gyori in Bonn on EEC's discriminatory measures affecting agricultural imports from Eastern Europe.

The commentary runs, "Contradictory decisions like that have been rare during the decades-long existence of the Common Market. We have no intention to debate the right of the West European governments to protect the health of their citizens, but the nature, extent and timing of the measure all allow to suggest that there were not only health considerations behind the decision.

"As the over the past decades EEC's internal agricultural production has increased far more rapidly than consumption, the accumulated piles of meat, butter, milk powder and other food reserves have become an unbearable burden for the organization. On the other hand, peasants in some member states, such as the Federal Republic of Germany, find themselves confronted with the contradictions of Common Market rivalry and its agrarian system. The suspicion is then justified: The EEC wants to get rid of this 'burden', if momentarily.

"There also are other, indirect indications of the protectionist and political considerations that motivated the Brussels decision. It is difficult to find a plausible explanation why do hothouse

vegetables from Western Hungary pose a greater danger to EEC consumers, than from neighbouring Burgenland which is not affected by any embargo. And how does the argument hold up about 'inadequate information', while government circles from Bonn to Brussels appreciate Hungary for its examplary cooperation in the exchange of information."

Radioactivity Data Exchanged With FRG

AU131433 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 7 May 86 p 3

[MTI report: "Hungarian-West German Exchange of Information"]

[Text] People in Bonn appreciate the fact that good cooperation has developed with Hungary in exchanging data on radioactive pollution, stated the West German news agency in its report from Bonn. This DPA report notes that following the Chernobyl catastrophe, the FRG's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent doctors with Geiger counters to the West German embassies located in the Warsaw Pact countries and that no actual radiation pollution has been reported so far.

According to the experts of the Juelich (FRG) Nuclear Research Center, one single nuclear weapons test carried out in the atmosphere prior to the nuclear moratorium agreement provided a greater danger to the world than the latest catastrophe in Chernobyl.

According to the latest measurements — on Tuesday [6 May] — radioactive pollution in the atmosphere of our homeland was very low, and decreased compared to the level on Monday [5 May].

The population's attention was again called to the dangers of consuming iodine pills unnecessarily. This was done on Hungarian Television on Tuesday [6 May] by Laszlo B. Sztanyik, director general of the National Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Radiation Medicine. As was stated in the broadcast, part of the population intended to protect themselves against the presumed effects of radioactive pollution caused by the accident [baleset] at Chernobyl nuclear power station by buying and taking iodine preparations. In this context, the radiation biologist stressed that there are people who are sensitive to iodine and they would expose themselves to various ill effects by taking iodine tablets unjustifiably, since in our homeland the radioactive pollution of the environment is far below the level that is dangerous to health. He also pointed out that, by taking iodine tablets, after a while the system of a person who is not sensitive to iodine could also be damaged. Nobody can take iodine tablets indefinitely and if these tablets are used unnecessarily, it may happen that people are not able to take them when doctors need it, for example to examine the thyroid gland.

Radiation Differs Slightly From Normal Levels

LD141412 Budapest MTI in English 1243 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Budapest, May 14 (MTI) — According to date of radiation level measurement on Wednesday [14 May], the radioactive content of the air in Hungary has returned to the natural level prior to the Chernobyl reactor accident. The radioactivity of the soil, plans and surface waters slightly differ from the normal average value.

uf subsectPOLAND

Air, Water 'Almost Returned' To Normal Conditions

LD141925 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpt] The government commission at a meeting chaired by Deputy Premier Zbigniew Szalajda analyzed the test results from 9-14 May and established that the air, surface water, and drinking water have almost returned to the state they were in before the accident [at Chernobyl and the radiation level is at normal background level.

The contamination of milk which was higher before is steadily falling and the maximum does not exceed 500 becquerels per liter, with the local permitted level being 1,000 becquerels, and according to the IAEA 1,000 becquerels for children and 10,000 becquerels for adults.

Tests on vegetables show that the contamination on Polish territory — which the commission has reported on in previous announcements — is also below the level permitted locally of 5,000 becquerels per kilogram.

On the basis of the favorable development in the radiological situation — which has been confirmed by assessments and analyses by Polish specialists, as well as specialists from the IAEA and the WHO — on 15 May the commission is lifting the partial temporary recommendations concerning the consumption of milk and some vegetables, such as lettuce, spinach, and sorrel by children and pregnant and nursing mothers. The commission says that there are no grounds for restrictions on the grazing of cows in open pastures. There are no other restrictions on the normal life and work in Poland.

ROMANIA

Radiation Decreases, Presents 'No Health Hazards'

AU141851 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1806 GMT 14 May 86

["From the Party and State Environmental Monitoring and Control Commission" — AGERPRES Headline]

[Text] Bucharest, AGERPRES 14/5/1986 — The measurements carried out all over Romania showed that on May 13 and 14 radioactivity had continued to recede in all the affected areas, Bucharest city included, nearing normal levels and presenting no health hazards. Vegetables and fruit may be eaten after thorough washing. Radiation levels are being monitored by special stations and laboratories and the population will be kept informed until radioactivity reaches permissible margins.

YUGOSLAVIA

Call For Emergency EEC Meeting On Food Ban Issued

AU141454 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Brussels, May 14 (AFP) — Yugoslavia has sought an urgent meeting with the European Economic Community (EEC) following the EEC's decision to include it in a ban on imports of food products from seven East European countries, community officials announced here Wednesday.

A spokesman for the community's executive commission said the meeting would likely be held Thursday [15 May] at the earliest. Yugoslavia has called the ban an "inadmissible discriminatory measure" and has argued that radiation levels in the country following the accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl have been lower than those of EEC members Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany.

The EEC imposed the suspensions until May 31 on a range of food products from Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania to prevent the entry of potentially contaminated produce. The commission spokesman said Yugoslavia had requested the meeting, in accordance with a 1980 treaty covering its relations with the community, to discuss the prejudice that its agricultural exports are likely to suffer because of the ban. Yugoslavia last year exported 353 million dollars' worth of agricultural products to the EEC, accounting for 40 percent of its farm exports.

Radiation Preventive Measures no Longer Necessary

LD141932 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-croatian 1641 GMT

[Summary] Belgrade, 14 May (TANJUG) — The level of radioactivity has been falling throughout the country. Latest results obtained from authorized institutes in the republics and provinces show that preventive measures are no longer necessary. Further monitoring of radioactivity in Yugoslavia will be carried out within the framework of regular systematic examinations.

AUSTRIA

Expert Study Analyzes Radioactivity in Austria

AU141240 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1013 GMT 14 May 86

[Gisela Hopfmueller report on a 14 May press conference in the Austrian Institute for Ecology in Vienna — recorded]

[Text] Radioactivity-contaminated air has reached Austria in three waves since the Chernobyl reactor disaster, reports Dr Veronika Zwatz-Meise, basing this statement on synoptic calculations by meteorologists. The first wave occurred on Tuesday, 29 April, in the afternoon; the second — carrying most of the radioactivity — during the night of 30 April-1 May; and the third — via Yugoslvaia — during the night of 3-4 May. The final change for the better, the meteorologists say, came on 8 May for Austria. Since then, air has been fresh and uncontaminated, arriving from the Atlantic.

Dr Karl-Johann Hartig from the Ministry of Health now also knows a bit more about the composition of the radiation coming from Chernobyl. The data are not quite exact, he says, and nothing is being hidden. The analyses are lengthy and complicated, but:

[Begin Hartig recording] What we now see is clearly quite a a large amount, relative to each other, of iodine 131, iodine 132, and an equal amount of tellurium 132. Iodine 131 has a half-life of 8 days and it affects the thyroid gland; the same goes for iodine 132, but this has a half-life of 3 days, the same as tellurium. Molybdenum 91 — a half-life of 66 hours. Then ruthenium 103 in much smaller amounts — a half-life of 40 days. And then we come to the more durable elements: one is cesium 137 — i do not know the exact data, but it is something like 3-5 percent of the total activity of iodine at the beginning; then, of course, there is strontium — current measurements shows less than 0.1 percent of the total activity for strontium 90, and a bit more for strontium 89. [end recording]

In the case of plutonium we were lucky, he said — lucky due to the construction and purpose of the Chernobyl reactor. Hartig:

[Begin Hartig recording] It is good luck that it was a plutonium breeder reactor — I mean cynically speaking, it is good — where plutonium for bombs was produced. This means that in the reactor core there is very little plutonium 239, compared to light water reactors of the type we have in Austria's Zwentendorf power plant, and in this case this was good luck, one really has to stress this. [end recording]

Dr Peter Weiss of the Environmental Institute of the Academy of Sciences and declared critic of nuclear power does not want to use the original readiation values of 28 and 29 April as a basis for assessing the current radiation.

[Begin Weiss recording] If one now takes a dust sample, what is the percentage of durable radioactivity? I am not interested in what was higher at one time or other, in one place or other, but I want to know how the radioactivity level will continue in the future — the radioactivity level of the substance which is currently sticking to the leaf of a vegetable or which is in an egg. How must this be assessed? And there I think that at least one-third of that which we have been able to measure so far — or even a bit more than one-third — has a half-life of 30 years. And therefore, storing, freezing, fermenting, and so forth are no measures against this radioactivity. [end recording]

Pediatrician Dr Ferdinand Sator opposes the fact that the setting of radiation limits is always based on so-called standard human beings — the standard human being weighing 70 kg and being healthy. This is very, very rare in reality, Sator says, and in this connection criticizes the value of 10 nanocurie radiation per liter set as a limit for milk samples by the Health Ministry. This, the pediatrician says, might be safe for adults, but not for children.

[Begin Sator recording] That means we must except that infant mortality, which has been decreasing up to now, will rise again due to increased radioactivity. That means the prognosis calculating rising life expectancy has to be abandoned again as a fanatsy. Problems with children born prematurely are certainly due to radioactivity — that means that a large proportion of the problems which we in pediatrics are faced with are largely caused also by radioactivity [end recording]

DENMARK

Danish paper cites APN correpondent on Chernobyl

PM131424 [Editorial Report] Copenhagen *BERLINGSKE TIDENDE* in Danish on 7 May publishes on page 5 a 2,000-word dispatch from Chernobyl by APN correspondent Vladimir Kolinko, dated 28 April, which describes Kolinko's visit to the area around the Chernobyl power station in the days after the reactor accident. Kolinko describes the intense activity in the area, the efforts to measure and control radiation levels, the attempts to contain the fallout by dropping lead and other materials onto the reactor, and the party's efforts in the village of Pripyat to bring the situation under control. Kolinko also sketches the steps being taken to protect the health of the people in the area and the preparations for the evacuation of the inhabitants of the town of Chernobyl.

Daily Criticizes USSR Secrecy Over Chernobyl

PM131530 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE SONDAG in Danish 11 May 86 p 16

[Editorial: "The Fallout From Chernobyl"]

[Text] It should not really surprise anyone that the Russians are Russian and behave as such. In the event of the biggest or the smallest threat to their security from within or from outside in the great unknown, they withdraw into their homes and surround themselves with silence. Weaknesses are covered up by unapproachability, not only to deny their existence but also to gain time to overcome them. It is the same in wartime and peacetime, under czars and general secretaries, when a submarine runs aground in an archipelago, when flight KAL-007 is shot down over Sakhalin, and when Chernobyl blows up. The closed society

closes itself entirely; and only when it knows how things stand does it open up a little, and then a little more if necessary.

There is no reason to believe that the Russians did not know what they were dealing with in the Ukraine. Perhaps people down in Kiev were also trying to lie their way out of the danger in the first hours of the first day, but thereafter Moscow knew about it. The Soviet Union has carried out many hundreds of nuclear arms tests above and below the surface of the earth, and the Russian nuclear medicine specialists know as well as anyone else about the effects of radioactive emissions of all sizes. The communist system has a brutal attitude to the relationship between the needs of society and the needs of its citizens This attitude has an effect on the judgments which determine how much or how little is to be invested in unproductive and expensive safety measures at individual reactor construction projects; and the leaders of Russian society do not have the problems or the advantages of a body of public opinion which can demand that their misjudgments be corrected so that safety standards are improved. But when things go wrong, they know very well why and they also know what should be done. They do not deliberately expose their citizens to unnecessary danger, but they do have a very restrictive view of the difference between necessary information and frightening details which could lead to panic and criticism of the system.

The Soviet Union is not alone in the world, and by no means alone in Europe. Within its own borders the Soviet leadership can perhaps do what it likes; but when it spreads its radioactivity out across Western Europe, it comes face to face with a body of public opinion which makes justified demands for improved Russian reactor safety. The taciturn Soviet leaders, and the general secretary who has been totally silent in the last few weeks, could take the view that this is an overreaction in Western Europe to the fallout from Chernobyl and read a political motive into it. But it is there simply because public opinion is part of the foundation of European politics. The demand for security from Russian radioactivity has permeated deep into European grassroots in the last fortnight and it has been reflected in the urgent government calls to the Soviet Union to enter into a binding international cooperation agreement to safeguard human life. The Soviet Union's leaders will be forced to enter into more open cooperation on safety standards and warning procedures. Otherwise they themselves will give rise to stronger and even more negative political fallout.

FINLAND

Trade, Industry Minister on Nuclear Energy Bill

LD132234 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish
1900 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] In the opinion of Minister of Trade and Industry Seppo Lindblom, decisions on Finland's fifth nuclear power station ought to be postponed until after the elections. Lindblom thinks that the building of a condensing power plant using coal and peat could be brought forward so that the necessary increase of 500 megawatts in electricity production could be realized in the next decade. In the Diet Finance Committee's discussion of the nuclear energy bill, Lindblom said that in taking a stance on nuclear energy one has to be careful because the attitudes also apply to plants that do not exist. Nuclear energy should not be entirely excluded as an alternative, said Minister of Trade and Industry Seppo Lindblom.

Ministry Sets 26 May for Safe Cattle Grazing

LD131904 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish
1500 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recommends that cattle not be let out to graze before 26 May. Nor should cattle be fed with fresh grass in sheds before that date. The Institute of Radiation Protection reports that radiation levels caused by the Chernobyl nuclear accident are still declining. For example, in Helsinki the reading at 1200 was 0.018 milliroentgen a hour. The normal reading is 0.014 milliroentgen.

Atmosphere 'Largely Free' of Chernobyl Radiation

LD140849 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish
0700 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The atmosphere over Finland according to this morning's bulletin, has become largely free of radioactivity caused by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Radiation is now considered to be returning to the range of normal background radiation. The total radiation rate in Helsinki this morning was 18 microroentgen an hour, whereas the normal background radiation is 14 microroentgens. According to the meteorological office's forecast, the southerly airstream will not bring new radioactivity to Finland, nor is it believed that rain will raise the outside radiation level. Official recommendations that rainwater be avoided for household use still apply.

FRANCE

Produce Sales Fall; Radioactivity Decreasing

LD141111 Paris Domestic Service in French
1000 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] As a direct consequence of the Chernobyl catastrophe, the Alsace market gardeners in the region of Village-Neuf have seen their sales fall nearly 80 percent at the market in Basel, Switzerland. Of course, there is no question of selling produce which is not safe; but according to the results of analyses made recently on all the vegetables sold in the region, no trace of radioactivity was detected. In any case, the market gardeners are worried and are wondering whether thought should not already be given to compensation on the eve of the tax settlement date.

Having said that, at the national level the radioactivity of iodine in milk is continuing to decrease more than 2 weeks after the Chernobyl accident. As far as food products are concerned, daily analyses of vegetables and milk products from various regions of France show that all these foodstuffs are fit for consumption. There is also no danger as far as water is concerned.

Ministry Bans Consumption of Spinach From Alsace

AU131848 Paris AFP in English 1855 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Paris, May 13 (AFP) — Consumption of spinach from the eastern French region of Alsace was on Tuesday banned by Industry Minister Alain Madelin after tests showed a level of radioactivityabove international norms. The spinach registered 2,600 becquerels a kilo (2.2 lbs), 600 more than that permitted under norms fixed by the World Health Organisation. The spinach can still be frozen or canned since its radioactivity should disappear completely in ten weeks and drop to under 2,000 becquerels at the end of a week.

Mr. Madelin said on radio on Tuesday that the measure was just a precaution. "One would need to eat two tonnes of this spinach in a few weeks to reach the point at which medical supervision could be required," he said.

Alsace was reportedly one of the regions of France most affected by the radioactive cloud from the disabled Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Ukraine.

Radioactivity in France Found Insignificant

LD151034 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Radioactivity in France is insignificant. The Central Department for Protection Against Ionizing Radiation has just indicated this. As far as fresh produce is concerned, spinach from Alsace remains the most affected, although its radioactivity is well under the legal level, so there is no cause for anxiety, as Alain Madelin minister of industry said yesterday.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

XINHUA: Soviet Compensation 'Surely' Sought

OW140832 Beijing XINHUA in English 0624 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpt] Bonn, May 13 (XINHUA) — Federal German farmers will suffer a loss of one billion Deutsche Marks (about 460 million U.S. dollars) as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, Federal Minister of Economics Martin Bangemann estimated today.

Bangemann said in an interview with the Federal German broadcast station, no accurate and comprehensive statistics can be compiled at present. But the government will provide subsidies to farmers immediately and postpone the examination on applications for the subsidies until later. He stressed the government will surely ask the Soviet Union to compensate for any losses occurred because of the accident although such effort may not be successful.

SPD Demands Reappraisal of Nuclear Energy Program

LD131950 Hamburg DPA in German 1844 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Bonn, 13 May (DPA) — The SPD group in the Bundestag this evening put forward a motion on the government statement Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl will make to parliament tomorrow on the Soviet reactor accident. The motion was adopted by a large majority of the SPD group. It criticizes Soviet information policy in connection with the reactor disaster as irresponsible, calls for a review of German emergency planning, and demands a radical reappraisal of energy policy.

The motion says that nuclear energy is acceptable only for a transitional period. The controversial fast-breeder reactor in Kalkar should not be put into service, and the plan to build a nuclear reprocessing plant in Wackersdorf should be scrapped. The Chernobyl disaster, the SPD says, exposed the inadequacy of international agreements to avert dangers posed by the use of nuclear energy.

Nobel Expert Warns of 'Thousands' of Cancer Deaths

AU141702 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 14 May 86

[Excerpts] Bonn, May 14 (AFP) — Fallout from Chernobyl will cause "thousands of extra cancers" in West Germany over the coming decades, the head of the West German section of the Nobel Prizewinning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear war says.

"There is no threshold at which radioactivity is not a danger," Professor Herbert Begemann told the weekly magazine *STERN* in an interview published Wednesday [14 May]. "All the experts agreed that even the smallest quantities are harmful." "In general, leukemias occur after seven or 10 years, while cancerous tumours appear only between 15 and 30 years."

He warned that cancer-causing substances with a long half-life, such as cesium 137, plutonium 239 and iodine 129, "will enter the food chain in the next few weeks" after having been absorbed into the ground. However, Erich Oberhausen, chairing a government committee for radiological protection, said that rates of cancer caused by Chernobyl would be negligible "and disappear into (West Germany's) overall statistics."

FRG Press: Chernobyl Will Affect Elections

DW141040 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0505 GMT 14 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Editorials today deal with the possible effects the Chernobyl reactor accident could have on the FRG elections.

KOELNSICHE RUNDSCHAU writes: Chernobyl is located thousands of kilometers away from us, but elections in Lower Saxony and for the Bundestag are approaching. That brings us to an issue that is as interesting from the viewpoint of political opportunism as it is unappetizing as related to political morality. Everybody hints at it, but hardly anybody says that Chernobyl

is being strongly exploited in the FRG election campaign. The more the radioactive clouds from the Ukraine dissolve, the more strong and obvious are attempts to activate the citizens' emotions to the disadvantage of the CDU/CSU. First it was only assumptions, but now that Bonn has given the all-clear signal while North Rhine-Westphalia and Hesse are still an alert, the situation has become suspicious. Naturally, such suspicions can quickly hit below the belt. The coming election campaign will not take place in Chernobyl, but the events there could decide the elections. The probability that this assumption might be correct is more likely the more it is denied.

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU writes: These days one must listen carefully who the accident makes reflective and whose remarks are just tactics serving to disguise real intentions. The reminder that one should not misuse such catastrophes for an election campaign does not matter much, it is mostly a hypocritical and purely diversionary maneuver. All problems must be explained and handled out in the open. The people have a right to know what lessons the big political organizations want to draw from the catastrophe, whether everything will remain as it is, whether the nuclear energy program will be extended, whether discontinuation is advocated, or whether an immediate stop will be ordered in case of a change of leaders.

NEUE OSNABRUECKER ZEITUNG maintains: In the heated debate on a possible discontinuation of nuclear energy as a reaction to the Chernobyl catastrophe, honesty seems to be suffering. Behind the justified concern, there is also trivial opportunism from those who suddenly feel equipped with effective election campaign munition. It is, therefore, only too natural that the challenger in the Lower Saxony election is acting as if he wanted to extinguish every nuclear fire tomorrow. It looks more like craftiness than responsible political action. So what if only the voter and his nuclear fear are mobilized that way. It is equally logical for the Greens to press for leadership in the renunciation movement, especially in Hesse where they can operate in the arms of the SPD. However, nobody says anything about what will follow the renunciation of nuclear energy, what economic and ecological consequences must be expected for an industrial state like the FRG. Compensation by using fossil fuels such as coal and oil is out. Whether windmills, the sun, or tidal power are sufficient replacements is speculative. What is now heard from the SPD and the Greens is, therefore, only for the transitory effect.

FRG Lawyer Sues USSR for Damages After Chernobyl

AU140842 Paris AFP in English 0838 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Dusseldorf, West Germany, May 14 (AFP) — Lawyer Hansjorg Loschelder has begun a damages action against the Soviet Union following the Chernobyl nuclear mishap, on the grounds his family has been subject to radioactive fallout. The consequences of radiation caused by the accident were still not well-known, but risked taking the form of many cancers in 10 to 15 years, he argued. "I owe it to my wife and children (aged six and four) to take up their defence and ask for damages for the harmful effects they could suffer," he said. Mr. Loschelder began his action in a court here under the West Germany civil code.

GREECE

'Anarchists' Hold Antinuclear Demonstrations

NC140719 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 0400 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The nuclear accident in Chernobyl prompted the holding of two demonstrations in Athens yesterday to protest the use of nuclear energy. The first demonstration was held in the courtyard of Athens University at 1800. It was organized by the Nonaligned Movement for Peace, the Antinuclear Initiative, and the Alternative Movement of Ecologists.

A march toward the EEC offices, the French Embassy, and the Soviet Embassy's press office was then staged. It ended at the military museum.

A second demonstration to protest the use of nuclear energy was held in the same area a little later. This protest was organized by PAKOE, KIPAEA, and PEAK [expansions unknown]. A march toward the military museum was then undertaken.

The police arrested 16 people, 14 men and 2 women, for incidents instigated by groups of youth in Omonia [Athens square] and adjacent streets last night. Nine policemen were injured during these incidents, and three of them are now being treated in Hospital 301.

The trouble began as the march staged after the first antinuclear protest was passing through Omonia. Groups of young people, who according to the police are anarchists, burned a police emergency action motorcycle at the end of Panepistimiou Street in Omonia. The driver was not injured by the incident. The same individuals then threw rocks and a Molotov cocktail at an (?interrogation) vehicle belonging to TOSA [expansion unknown]. A seat in the vehicle caught fire and policeman Konstandinos Yiannakopoulos was wounded. The fire was extinguished immediately.

The youths also threw rocks at police in the Omonia area. A clash ensued and policeman Dhimitris Karalis suffered a neck injury. The young people responible for these incidents were dispersed by the police. Small clashes also took place in other downtown Athens streets.

Film Showing Chernobyl Fire Said To Be 'Fraud'

AU141052 Rome ANSA in English 1049 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, May 14 — The film reportedly showing the fire which followed the April 26 nuclear disaster at the Soviet Chernobyl power plant, and which has been shown by two American networks as well as Italy's state television network RAI, is a fake, sources said here.

The fraud was discovered after residents of the Trieste region of Northern Italy, who had watched the RAI's second channel afternoon news yesterday, began calling the local RAI TV station to say that the area filmed was, (?in fact), Trieste's industrial zone as seen from the Cattinara and Caresana hills.

The fraud was carried out by a Yugoslavian who claimed that he had been a tourist in the Soviet Union and that on April 27 he was in the area near the Chernobyl power plant and that he had filmed the blaze with amateur equipment.

After failing to sell his film to the local RAI station in Trieste, the Yugoslavian had no trouble in selling it to the "Visnews" news agency which, in turn, passed it on to the American networks who then, via sattelite, sent it to RAI central headquarters in Rome. The film, in fact, actually shows the smoke which rises from the "Terni" steel mill and the building shown is in reality the Cattinara hospital. Following the phoned-in protests, the RAI showed the film to its reporters who were acquainted with the Trieste region and all confirmed that the film depicted the Trieste industrial zone. The American "NBC" and "ABC" networks also confirmed the fraud after they had consulted with their own collaborators in Trieste.

Caorso Nuclear Plant To Close 10 Days for Repairs

AU141058 Rome ANSA in English 1011 GMT 14 May 86

[Text](ANSA) Piacenza, May 13 — The nuclear power plant in nearby Caorso will stop operating for a period of about ten days in order to repair a small leak in the reserver cooling system of the reactor's core. The leak occurred Saturday night and was defined as "slight". Guido Morandi, who runs the power station, took pains to stress that the reactor's main cooling system as well as its emergency system are fully in order. The ten-day closedown will make it possible for experts to make a thorough check of the plant's machinery and security systems.

SWEDEN

Plutonium Traced in Radioactivity Over Sweden

LD132121 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 2000 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] For the first time, plutonium has been traced in radioactive emissions over Sweden from the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union, according to the National Institute of Radiation Protection. Plutonium has been found in studies of rainwater outside the nuclear power station at Forsmark in Uppland. But the Institute of Radiation Protection says the amount of plutonium found is so small that it will not have any noticeable effects.

Gotland Tests Show High Radioactive Iodine in People

LD141831 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] The preliminary test results of measurements of radioactive iodine in the thyroid gland of people living on Gotland show high values. The people on Gotland have higher radioactivity than people on the mainland and in several cases the Institution of Radiation Protection has found higher contents of radioactive iodine in the test group than has been found in people who visited Eastern Europe during the days following the nuclear accident in Chernobyl. However, according to the Institution of Radiation Protection, the amounts are not dangerous.

Radioactive Values on Food Lowered to EEC Levels

LD132028 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] Sweden will now accept a lower limit value for radioactivity in foodstuffs which the European Economic Community, EEC, introduced after the nuclear power accident in the Soviet Union. The National Swedish Food Administration has announced to the EEC Commission in Brussels that Sweden will lower its limit value from 2,000 becquerel to 500 becquerel, which EEC demands. Before this, Italy banned the imports of meat and hard bread from Sweden. The 12 EEC countries have now agreed to stop all imports of fresh foodstuffs from Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union says in a comment on the import by imposed by the EEC that the West European countries utilize the misfortune of other countries. According to the news agency TASS, the accident in Chernobyl is used as a pretext to introduce discriminatory actions against the Soviet Union.

Austria's Gratz on Nuclear Power Agreements

LD132152 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1600 GMT 13 May 86

[Report on Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz' 13 May news conference in Stockholm by reporter Reinhard Krause; from the "Radio Magazine"]

[Excerpts] Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz said that it is important to remember that the accident in the Ukraine has caused fallout which, despite everything, is only a fraction of what would spread if a single nuclear warhead were to be exploded in Europe. In the midst of the current debate about the reactor accident in Chernobyl, the European peoples must not forget the iminent danger created by nuclear weapons, Gratz said. He added that the accident in the Soviet Union convinced Austria that the completed nuclear power station, Zwentendorf, should never be put in use. The plant was completed in 1978; in practice it was stopped by a national referendum and mothballed. Since then it has been known jokingly by the description: the only completely safe nuclear power station in the world.

Gratz said that he had discussed with the Swedish Government the possibility of achieving international agreements against the risks of nuclear power. Agreements between two neighboring countries are not sufficient, because winds carry fallout thousands of kilometers away. Political borders simply cease to exist when environmental disasters occur. We should at least try to achieve agreements between all countries on direct information and warnings when disasters at nuclear power stations occur, said Leopold Gratz. He also stressed that it would further be important to obtain continuous information about the pollution which follows in daily operation. According to the Austrian Government's view, there are two possibilities of achieving such an agreement: one would be to develop the convention on the IAEA in Vienna, the second would be to extend the European agreement on cross-border air pollution. He did not want to specify which would be best.

BRAZIL

'No Risk' Radioactive Cloud Awaited in '10 to 30 Days'

PY131807 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] National Nuclear Energy Commission President (Rex Nazare Alves) has said that Brazil can measure the amount of radioactive material in any imported food item, adding that if food is to be imported, additional measures will be adopted to detect radioactivity levels. As for the arrival of the radioactive cloud in Brazil, (Nazare Alves) confirmed that although it will arrive, it will entail no risks for either people or the environment. He said the cloud might arrive in 10 to 30 days.

JAPAN

Computer System To Evaluate Chernobyl Accident

OW131120 Tokyo ASAHI EVENING NEWS in English 12 May 86 p 3

[Text] The Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute [JAERI] has decided to try to calculate the extent of environmental contamination resulting from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident using a computer system which the institute developed recently for such a purpose.

Since the nuclear reactor disaster took place at the Soviet power station last month; little information has been divulged by the Soviet authorities as to the seriousness of radiation leakage and environmental contamination.

The JAERI's computerized forecasting system was developed to determine the levels of radioactivity which would be released into the environment by a nuclear accident. Authorities could use the information in evacuating people near a stricken reactor.

The development of the system began after the 1979 Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident in the United States, and was completed with the cooperation of the Meteorological Agency and others.

The JAERI is trying to calculate the scale of radioactive contamination around the crippled Soviet nuclear power plant by feeding into a computer data on radioactivity which was recorded in northern Europe and other countries around the world.

Milk Contaminated With Iodine 131 in Nagasaki

OW151205 Tokyo KYODO in English 1157 GMT 15 May 86

[Text] Nagasaki, May 15 KYODO — Milk on sale here has been found contaminated with radioactive iodine 131 due probably to fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident environmental pollution control officials said Thursday [15 May]. The officials said the contamination levels were 42 picocuries per liter of the milk on Wednesday and 35 picocuries on Thursday, both too low to be dangerous to the human body.

The milk was checked when it was put on the market after it was produced in Nagasaki Prefecture on the previous day. Radioactive iodine 131 does not exist in the natural environment.

In Tokyo, meanwhile, health and welfare ministry officials said that they have not so far detected any abnormal radiation readings in imported food arriving at the international airport at Narita. The officials have been checking all perishable and frozen foods arriving from the Soviet Union, Poland, Sweden, Italy and 12 other European countries since May 2, following the April 26 Chernobyl nuclear accident. They said they have so far examined about 28 tons of foods, including three tons of salmon meat which arrived from Norway Thursday afternoon. The examination will be continued for some time to come, they said.

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Soviet Tourist Office Stresses USSR Travel Safe

OW150735 Tokyo KYODO in English 0727 GMT 15 May 86

[Excerpt] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO — The Soviet travel office here said Thursday [15 May] travel to the Soviet Union is safe and regretted a printing error in a message to Japanese travel agents which caused misunderstanding about tourism to the country. There is no danger for foreign tourists despite the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in late April, the Soviet Government tourist information bureau (Japan) said.

The telegram, which the Soviet state-run travel agency Intourist sent to 31 Japanese travel agents, said "none of them (tourists) have been affected by radiation." It, however, contained a conflicting message saying "foreign tourists may travel throughout the Soviet Union visiting any tourist center being absolutely endangered." Viktor Turkin, director of the Soviet Government tourist bureau (Japan), issued a statement and said it was a simple printing mistake.

The telegram, which was signed by Intourist President Valentin F. Lebedev and originally written in Russian, was misprinted and should read " ... absolutely undangered," a spokeswoman for the bureau said.

Lebedev issued a fresh statement later in Moscow, correcting "absolutely endangered" to "absolutely safe," said Kawasaki Enterprises Inc., the Japanese advertising agency for the Soviet tourist office.

Turkin issued the statement in response to Japanese English language newspaper articles based on a KYODO NEWS SERVICE report on the telegram, officials at his office said. Turkin said he was surprised to read those newspapers which reported the intourist telegram in the opposite sense to that intended. He added that one could have understood it was a mere printing error if he read the whole telex. A copy of Lebedev's telegram, available to KYODO NEWS SERVICE, explained the April 26 Chernobyl disaster and subsequent developments in detail.

NIGERIA

Radio Examines Chernobyl Accident, Nuclear Reactors

AB141740 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 14 May 86

[News analysis]

[Text] On the 25th of April a fatal nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl nuclear pmwer station in the Soviet Union. Fire had (?burst) one of the reactors, leading to radioactive leak into the atmosphere. The Soviet Union had said that only four people died as a result of the radiation emitted from the reactor. Western scientists are insisting that the death toll was on the order of thousands of people. What is, however, clear is that the incident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station is one of the worst nuclear accidents so far recorded, since nuclear reaction became a huge source of energy.

The fact that more than 20,000 people were evacuated from a radius of about 100 km from the scene of the accident underscores the dimension of the problem. Also, vegetables and (?meats) from the Soviet Union and some East European countries are being refused in Western Europe and other parts of the world. This is for fear of radioactive contamination. Neighbors of the Soviet Union have panicked in the wake of the nuclear accident. Some of them, in fact, recorded radiation much higher than normal.

But their fears are now being allayed as assurances are being given by the Soviet authorities that the situation is under control. However, for the past 2 weeks, the incident has made the use of nuclear reactors as a source of energy a topical issue around the globe. The current discussion on the issue, for one thing, has somehow increased average knowledge about nuclear reactors. Many people now know that these reactors are devices which generate a large amount of heat and radiation. It is also known that a dark compound of uranium is responsible for the release of the heat and radiation. Nuclear scientists have further explained that the resultant energy is being used to generate electricity and to satisfy heat requirements of heavy industries like food processing, pulp and paper, iron and steel, as well as chemicals.

The utility of nuclear energy is demonstrated by the fact that it is now responsible for 15 percent of the total power generation in the world. There are 101 nuclear power stations in the United States alone. The Japanese derive 26 percent of their total energy needs from their nuclear power stations. France must save up to 1.2 million barrels of oil daily by obtaining three-quarters of her energy needs from nuclear reactors. Today 26 countries are using nuclear reactors as a source of energy.

The misfortune of this development lies in the controversy surrounding it. Protagonists of nuclear energy believe that it is a field of engineering that has relieved mankind of heavy dependence on traditional sources of energy. Those opposed to it have supported themselves with the fact that no amount of safety measures would prevent fatal accidents that can threaten human existence. They argue that since the development of nuclear power stations, not less than 20,000 accidents have been recorded. At least 1,000 were said to be quite fatal. It is also the concern of those opposed to nuclear power generation that the disposal of its solid and gaseous wastes remains a big hazard to life.

In spite of these contentions, governments in countries where nuclear power stations are being proliferated insist that such stations are cost-effective. Therefore, they have ignored thousands of antinuclear power demonstrations. The demonstrations are bound to increase in intensity as the Chernobyl nuclear accident serves as a reminder to everyone that the search for alternative sources of energy has culminated in the storage of lethal radioactive material which constitutes a real threat to mankind.

SAUDI ARABIA

Royal Approval for Ban on Food Imports

GF150457 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Royal approval has been granted to proposals previously submitted by their excellencies the ministers of health and commerce for precautionary measures to avert the harm resulting from the pollution of foodstuffs in countries affected by radiation from the recent explosion of the Soviet nuclear power plant.

TAIWAN

No Radioactive Contamination in Imported Food

OW141443 Taipei CNA in English 1402 GMT 14 May 86

[Text] Taipei, May 14 (CNA) — An examination report shows that no sign of radioactive contamination so far has been found on the foodstuffs the Republic of China imports, says T.P. Wang, director general of the Bureau of Commodity Inspection and Quarantine.

Examined food grains included barley, wheat, oat, maize, sesame, and cassava which are imported from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Thailand, Sweden, Indonesia, India, Canada, Portugal, Hong Kong, South Africa, Japan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Singapore.

Since 1973, Wang said, his bureau has cooperated with the nation's Tsing Hua University to engage in inspections for radioactive contamination on imported foodstuffs. During the period of Jan. 1985 till May 1986, all 84 examined cases have been found safe and with no sign of radioactive contamination. Wang made the statement in reply to legislator Hwa Ai's interpellation at a Legislative Yuan's Economic Committee meeting Wednesday.

ZAIRE

First State Commissioner Receives Soviet Ambassador

AB131745 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French
1130 GMT 13 May 86

[Text] It seems that the situation is returning to normal at Chernobyl and the nuclear station, it seems, should be able to resume its activities in the very near future. This statement was made this morning by Valentine Soldatov, the Soviet ambassador to Zaire, following the audience granted him by the first state commissioner, Citizen Kengo wa Dondo. The two personalities also discussed relations between Zaire and the Soviet Union in the political, economic as well as cultural fields. This was the point stressed by Valentine Soldatov when he spoke to our correspondent (Bitinin Ndaye Kimtako):

[Begin recording] [Soldatov in French] First, we discussed at length problems concerning our bilateral relations, in the economic field in particular. I cannot tell you concretely the details of these discussions, but I can tell you frankly that we discussed projects that we want to implement in the shortest possible time.

[(Kimtako)] Mr Ambassador, I want to recall one of the projects. In the area of sports, you once announced the intensification of relations between the Soviet and Zairian Olympic committees. I do not know whether negotiations have begun or are at an advanced stage. At what stage are these negotiations?

[Soldatov] We are at an advanced stage concerning this protocol agreement between the two Olympic committees. However, we have already drafted the project for cultural relations. I think it will be signed in the forthcoming days.

[(Kimtako)] One is really not clear about what is currently happening at the Chernobyl nuclear station. Can you give us precise details on this issue?

[Soldatov] What happened at our nuclear station in Chernobyl was (?an accident) like any other accident. This accident happened on 26 April. But, in the meatime, the situation is firmly under control. During a trip to the Soviet Union, the general directors of the International Atomic Energy authority saw that the repair works being made by the Soviet Government correspond to the norms. Now, in the region where this station is located, the situation has returned to normal. The reactors are almost (?dormant) and the temperature has already fallen to 300 degrees. The radioactivity situation is almost [passage indistinct].